

# NEWSCAPE



## Buffalo Tri-Refresher



*The Japanese Garden at Mirror Lake, Delaware Park, Buffalo, New York.  
Photo below: Thomas Edison, Erie Marine Basin, Buffalo, New York. The sculpture is one of a series created from trees destroyed in a 2006 snowstorm.*

### From the Editor:

You have been a busy group: so many schools, refreshers and events. *Please be sure to forward Newscape to your Consultants.*

I look forward to hearing from you by February 1, 2013 for inclusion in our Spring 2013 issue. We would all love to hear about your projects, meetings and schools. You are all doing so much; we can all use new ideas.

All submissions must be original material and may include photographs. Articles should be in Word format and sent as attachments to e-mails to: [victoriabergesen@gmail.com](mailto:victoriabergesen@gmail.com)

*-Victoria Bergesen*

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDY PROGRAM**

☼ 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.



NEWS FROM YOUR NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

**FROM OUR NATIONAL CHAIRMAN:**

Across the nation, schools and colleges are back in session. Learning is paramount. National Garden Clubs offers its members many opportunities to become more knowledgeable and aware of their environment. State Presidents are urged to join those states which have scheduled Courses and Multiple Refreshers this fall and next spring. Michigan, Texas, Montana, Kentucky, National Capitol and Virginia have schools this September. Alabama, Washington, Nebraska, Illinois, Louisiana are hosting Courses in October; Massachusetts and South Carolina in November. Ohio has not one but 2 series planned this fall, with one series in October and the other in December. Multiple Refreshers are taking place in New York, Georgia and Wisconsin.

Following NGC Fall Board Meeting in September in Little Rock, the LDS Committee hopes to be announcing that the updated LDS Operations Guide has been approved. Watch for details.. The LDS Committee is just an e-mail away should you have any concerns.

*Jane Bersch, Chairman*

**BUFFALO TRI-REFRESHER**

The Buffalo Tri-Refresher was held immediately following the NGC Convention on May 26, 2012. Our itinerary included two landscape architecture highlights. The Japanese Garden on Mirror Lake was originally conceived in 1970 and completed in 1972. Its tranquil beauty commemorates the sister-city relationship between Buffalo and Kanazawa, Japan. It was renovated in 1996.

Forest Lawn Cemetery established in 1849 by Charles E. Clark was at the forefront of the Garden Cemetery Movement. These cemeteries were designed to facilitate the sanitary burial of the dead and provide a consoling landscape for the living. President Millard Fillmore is the most prominent historical figure entombed here.

*Victoria Bergesen, Editor*

**NGC SCHOOLS**

I just returned from Alaska where I attended the annual Pacific Region Convention and enjoyed a pre-convention tour with garden club friends (at least five of the group were Landscape Design Consultants) that included a visit to Denali National Park. This signage in the Visitor Center made an impression:



*Japanese Garden on Mirror Lake, Buffalo, NY: Photos By Victoria Bergesen.*

**Glaciers Are Landscape Designers**

Glaciers are sculpting the landscape today. Look for evidence of their work as you travel through the park.

Look for U-shaped valleys--rounded valleys that glaciers carved from rock. The upstream side of the Toklat River Bridge at Mile 53 is a classic example of a glacial valley.

Spot the erratics--big boulders that were carried then dropped by glaciers on the move. An erratic usually looks out of place, sitting by itself where no house-sized rock should be. Some of the largest in the park can be seen from the road near Polychrome Overlook at Mile 46.

Consider the kettle ponds--depressions in the ground formed by big, melting chunks of buried glacial ice. The Wonder Lake area, from Mile 70 to 85, is dotted with kettle ponds, the legacy of a retreating glacier.

Time will reveal new landscape design as most park glaciers continue to retreat.

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I was reminded in Alaska--and while visiting Niagara Falls after attending the NGC Convention in Buffalo--that there is so much to learn from, appreciate and preserve in the natural land-

scape and that we must all remain stewards of the land. As stated in *Stewards of the Land*, our Landscape Design School textbook, "parks, playgrounds, and conservation areas are vital components to life today. Each in its own way provides a setting that helps nurture the association between humans and the natural environment by providing convenient reminders of this vital linkage in our increasingly more isolated daily routines."

*Greg Pokorski, NGC ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator*

The American Society of Landscape Architects features sustainable architecture in *The Dirt* available at [dirt.asla.org](http://dirt.asla.org)

**MULCH  
The Vicious Cycle**

*Why do we have so much mulch?*

The answer is very simply that landscaping companies have a down time between snow removal and lawn mowing, so they convinced everyone that mulch is an absolute necessity. Since they charge by volume, the more they pile on the more money they make. Just incidentally, by making big mulch circles around trees, they make mowing speedier. It is a win-win for the companies.



*Typical mulch mountains, suburban Ohio. Photo: Victoria Bergesen*

*What is mulch?*

Mulch is a covering that if wisely used can reduce erosion and slow the evaporation of water from the soil. In most cases the popular shredded or chipped wood is less than ideal for the purpose. The best choice is compost, ideally that you produce from your own garden and kitchen waste. Other choices that you may purchase, depending on your region, include pine needles, coconut fiber, gravel and rocks. Plastic, newspaper and other less aesthetically-pleasing materials are used effectively in vegetable gardens and agriculture.

The color of mulch can also effectively keep the soil cooler or warmer, as desired. At the extremes, white gravel can reflect the sun and black plastic can absorb a great deal of heat.

Most mulches are not very effective weed barriers. Briefly they will cover up weeds, but the plants will soon manage to sprout between the mulch particles.

*When to mulch*

In most areas of the country, mulch should be applied after the soil warms in the spring. Unfortunately, this is too late in the landscapers calendar. They want to apply it as much as two months too early, before the lawn-mowing business picks up. This keeps the soil cold and wet, at a time when it should be warming and drying out.

*Mulch in landscape design*

In the last two decades, mulch has gone from a horticultural tool to a landscape design choice. Most people mulch today for aesthetic reasons.

*How can mulch be bad?*

--As mentioned above mulch applied at the wrong time of the year, can slow the natural warming of the soil.

--The degradation of wood mulch actually draws nitrogen from the soil.

--Wood mulch is a waste of trees, a precious resource. Although it may be a 'by-product' of lumber production, there are many better purposes for it.

--Mulch heaped up around trunks and stems of plants will cause rot.

--Dyed mulches like 'black tie' will stain clothing. Adverse effects of the chemicals used are not yet known.

*What can we do?*

Just say no! Mulch responsibly. If you use a landscaper, put your foot down and insist that they lay down mulch at the correct time of year and that they lay down only two inches, kept well away from the crowns of the plants.

When you see improper mulching in a public place, take a photo. Use the date stamp feature in your camera. That way you can show that they mulched too early.

Talk to your municipality or township. Find out about their mulching program. *Show them how they can save money by responsible mulching.*

Many shopping centers mulch improperly. Write the owners and send them a picture. *Show them how they can save money by responsible mulching.*

*Photos top to bottom: Fall Color & Texture, Maine. Photo: Rebecca Linney. Hocking Co., Ohio; Container Bog, Ohio Governor's Residence. Victoria Bergesen*



*Mulch 'volcano', Ohio. Photo: Victoria Bergesen*

**STATE NEWS**

**CALIFORNIA**

At its February 2012 meeting, the California Landscape Design Council voted to form a single California Consultants Council (with Environmental Studies, Garden Studies and Landscape Design Consultants). A committee was appointed to prepare a revised plan for adoption at the Council's meeting in June 2012. The committee's revised plan was presented to the California Landscape Design Council at its meeting passed. Proposed bylaws for the new California Consultants Council will be presented at the Consultants Council Joint Meeting in September 2012 (at CGCI Fall Board Meeting) for discussion.

Alexis Slafer, LDS Schools Chairman, reports that there is much interest in several areas of California for new LDS series!

*Pat Clayes, LDC Chairman*

**LOUISIANA**

The Louisiana Landscape Design School will conduct Course II, Series 18, on October 30-31, 2012, at the Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7850 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA. The course includes ten hours of lecture provided by Louisiana State University Professors and other

local outstanding professional architects.

Our February 28-29, 2012, Course I brought many new faces and some familiar ones. We welcomed three NGC members from Ohio for refreshers and two other students from Kentucky. We had fourteen students, eleven consultants, two master refreshers, sixteen non-members for a total of forty-three registered, plus our professors and committee members for a total attendance of fifty-three, a large group for us!

On a historical note, the National Council of State Garden Clubs started the Landscape Design Study Programs in 1958; our Louisiana Study Programs began in 1962 and two of the 1964 graduates are still with us today. We have four new consultants, two new master consultants and two master consultants who have gone emeritus.

Our LD Consultants Council is active, meeting twice a year. Each summer we provide a "grant" to a garden club for a community landscape project.

*Clara Earl, LDS Chairman*

**MARYLAND**

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. Landscape Design Council celebrated National Garden Week with a

meeting at the Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens in Baltimore, inviting the public to join us in a tour after the meeting. The conservatory was established by the City of Baltimore in 1888 and is one of the few remaining Victorian conservatories left in the world. Plants from around the world, as well as special displays provide a continually changing floral display. The mission of the conservatory and botanic gardens is to foster an appreciation and understanding of plants from around the world and the vital roles they play in our lives.

We are very proud of our Hollyberry Garden Club, which was not only one of our LDC first place winners (\$150 check) for its project of landscaping at a public library, but also received the NGC President's 3rd place award for "Plant for Public and Special Places - Trees and Shrubs", a certificate of \$100. We continue to encourage all of our clubs to submit their landscape projects to the Council for award consideration and recognition for their work in the communities.

*Diana Bonner, LDC President*



**MASSACHUSETTS**

**New England Designers Earn Landscape Design Council Awards at Boston Flower & Garden Show**

The Landscape Design Council (LDC) of Massachusetts presented three awards at the 2012 Boston Flower & Garden Show. Winners of the awards were Ahronian Landscape & Design and Medway Garden Center, which entered a joint exhibit, and Garden Design School USA, which won two LDC awards.



*Garden Design School USA's "Up on the Roof", Boston Flower Show. Photo: Frances Wheeler.*

**A Woodland Retreat Up on the Roof**

The LDC's Emily Seaber Parcher Award is given for excellence in landscape design of a naturalistic garden of less than 1,000 square feet. "Up on the Roof," the winning exhibit by Garden Design School USA, evoked a woodland feel on an urban rooftop.

The exhibit also won Landscape

Design Award I, which is bestowed by the LDC for excellence in landscape design of a professional garden exhibit. The judging panel commented on the well-balanced design that incorporated the River Street Metal Finishing building façade into the garden and the way the scene was enhanced with suitable outdoor furniture and small water gardens in containers, from which sprung metal sculptures resembling silvery Cyperus plants.

**A Choice Spot to Spend the Summer Solstice**

Landscape Design Award II is given to a Boston Flower & Garden Show exhibitor for the effective use of garden ornaments, water features, specimen trees, or topiary in creating good design.

The centerpiece of "Summer Solstice in the Promontory," the winning exhibit created by the team of Ahronian Landscape & Design and Medway Garden Center, was a rectangular stone wall from whose center flowed a sheet of water and from either side of which juts stone beams that serve as steps to the inviting seating area above, which offered the calm feel of a retreat.

**The Landscape Design Council of Massachusetts**

Organized in 1963, the Landscape Design Council

(LDC) of Massachusetts operates under the auspices of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) and is a special-subjects group of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. The purpose of LDC is to provide ongoing landscape-design education through speakers, workshops, and tours of outstanding public and private areas. The Massachusetts chapter is the largest Council in the US. It provides judges for the Boston Flower & Garden Show and presents three landscape-design awards of its own.



*Ahronian's "Summer Solstice" garden., Boston Flower Show. Photo: Frances Wheeler.*

**NEBRASKA**

Nebraska will be hosting our first ever Landscape Design Study School Oct. 12-13, 2012 in Kearney, NE. I'm excited and hope we have good attendance. I'll take pictures and share what happens.

*Alice Hemsath, LDS Chairman*

**NEW JERSEY**

Early publicity for the 2012 Landscape Design Course invited prospective students to indulge themselves if they had ever thought they might be interested in landscape design! Enrolling in the upcoming Landscape Design School would be a first step on a personal path to becoming well versed in the basic principles of designing a plan, using plant materials and understanding hardscape requirements.

This publicity went out to all District Directors, Board Members, Club Presidents, current students and Landscape Design Consultants, Master Consultants and Master Gardeners throughout the state. Course IV of Series XVI was held at Holly House on the beautiful site of Rutgers Gardens on April 17, 18 and 20. Feedback from those attending the class was overwhelmingly positive. Bruce Crawford, Director of Rutgers Gardens, offered his expertise with his usual flair, always holding everyone’s attention. Landscape Architects Denise and Eric Mattes and Brian Bosenberg added their professional experiences and insights to their topics. Kirk Brown returned to enliven and enlighten the classroom with thought provoking material. Course and Instructor evaluations were excellent or very

good on all topics and instructors.

Of the 35 students registered for both days, 19 sat for the exam. Six students completed the four-year course and will be added to the roster of Landscape Design Consultants. Four Consultants refreshed their credentials.

*Nancy Schmaltz, LDS Chairman*

**NEW YORK**

New York State had a refresher last year June 21, 2011 in New Paltz, NY and a tri-refresher in Buffalo May 20, 2012, the day after the close of National convention.

*Antoinette Babb, LDS Chairman*

**OHIO**



*Garden of Harold & Kathy Green, Westerville, Ohio. Photo: Vaughn Hovey*

Ohio Landscape Design Consultants judged twelve outstanding gardens on the Westervilla Garden Tour, Westerville, Ohio on July 21. On this 26<sup>th</sup> year of the event, Westerville Garden Club

convinced the organizers to resume judging. We used three panels of three judges with each group point-scoring four gardens. However, even with point-scoring, we found it difficult agreeing upon the overall best landscape, especially with all judges not visiting all of the gardens. We would love to hear how you handle garden tour judging.

*Garden Club of Ohio has two upcoming landscape design schools:*

Course 3, Thursday and Friday, October 12-13 with the optional exam Saturday, October 14, Clark County Extension Office, 4400 Gateway Blvd., Springfield, OH

Course 1, Wednesday and Thursday, December 5-6 with the optional exam Friday, December 7, Brecksville Community Center, 1 Community Drive Brecksville, OH

*Barbara Shepard, LDS Chairman*

**TEXAS**

The Texas Landscape Design School finished Series XXII in February with 116 students in attendance. There is a very strong Master Gardener Group here in Texas from which we draw a large number of students. It is also from this group that we have been able to find new Garden Club members.

On September 10-11, 2012 we start Series XXIII, Course I in College Station, Texas. We are delighted to have Susan Haltom as our optional speaker discussing *One Writer's Garden* —*Eudora Welty's Home Place* by Susan Haltom and Jane Roy Brown.  
*Nell Zeigler, LDS Chairman*

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS**

**ALABAMA**

October 3-4 Auburn.  
Course IV. Chairman K. T. Owens (251) 743-3846

**ILLINOIS**

October 16-17 South Barrington. Course I. Chairman Dolores Lederer (847)381-5828

**KENTUCKY**

September 19-20 Bowling Green. Course I. Chairman Martha Morgan (270)781-5695

**LOUISIANA**

October 30-31 Baton Rouge. Course II. Chairman Clara Earl, (225) 924-6429

**MARYLAND**

September 19-21 Derwood. Course IV. Chairmen Dianne Gregg (301) 299-6456; Paula Knepper (301)424-7582

**MASSACHUSETTS**

November 1-3 Wellesley.

Course III. Chairman Jane O'Sullivan (781) 659-4423

**MICHIGAN**

May 8-9, 2013 Ludington. Course IV. Chairman Terry Harding (231)947-0568. wsharding@chartermi.com

**NEBRASKA**

October 12-13 Kearney Course I. Chairman Alice Hemsath (308)224-3771

**OHIO**

September 11-13 Springfield. Course III. December 5-7 Brecksville. Course I. Chairman Barbara Shepard (614) 890-4627 dshep6380@sbcglobal.net

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

November 7-9 Charleston. Course II. Chairman Susan Mcleode Epstein (843)556-5343

**VIRGINIA**

September 24-5 Charlottesville. Course IV. Chairman Bill Smoot (757)393-4617 billsmoot@cox.net

**WASHINGTON**

October 10-12 Edgewood. Course IV. Chairman JoAnn Goldman (206)362-3201

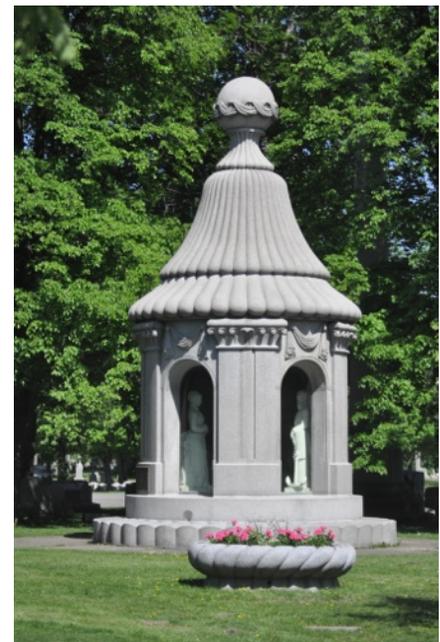
**POSTSCRIPT**

We have eleven schools before the February 1 deadline for the spring issue of *Newscape*. We hope to hear all about them. Please take some pictures! As you can see, some of our pages need photos to break them up a bit.

It is so easy to shoot pictures these days with digital cameras. Try to show some action, not just people sitting. Those of you giving Course IV, have a great opportunity to show students landscape judging. Refreshers always include some wonderful landscapes: please share them. Councils can send in photos of their projects or their meeting places.

PLEASE send your articles as Word attachments, do NOT send them in the body of an E-mail. Please include your name with the article.

*Victoria Bergesen, Editor*



*Blocher Memorial, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY. Photo: Victoria Bergesen.*