



# NEWSCAPE



*It's Daffodil Time!*

## 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 August 1, 2025 for inclusion in our Fall 2025 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](mailto:CSCarbaugh@verizon.net).

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**NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN:**

***From the Landscape Design School Chairman***

Greetings,

“The aim of the Landscape Design Study Program since its inception has been to educate our members in the application of sound principles of design to landscaping.

The Landscape Design Study Courses...have been a successful force in promoting good landscape practices for many years and...these courses will be strengthened and will continue to meet the needs of garden club members desiring to gain personal and practical knowledge of landscape design.” - Barbara Barnette, President of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (now National Garden Clubs, Inc), introducing *Stewards of the Land* (1999).

26 years later (yes, it’s been that long ago!) the aims of NGC’s Landscape Design School have remained the same. However, there have been several changes along the way, the most recent follow: *Stewards of the Land* is now a recommended, not required text. Forms we now use differ from those used prior (refillable and ideally reusable!) and curriculum has been revised. Courses 3 and 4 now provide students and consultants with practical information to develop personal landscape design plans. All courses now follow this revised curriculum. And now the committee structure is similar to that for Environmental and Gardening Schools.

Change is good. To keep advancing, schools need input from students and consultants as well as local/state school organizers/chairmen. Please help evaluate the changes by giving us any feedback you have regarding your experiences. Are there any suggestions you have?

We are nearing the end of this term and there are many thanks for the people who have served as NGC Landscape Design School Accrediting Chairmen. All their efforts, time and work processing all that’s necessary to get a school started and accredited after the school has been completed is much appreciated. Thanks to: Marty Bowers (our dear committee member whom we lost recently (Deep South and Rocky Mountain regions)); Barbara Campbell (Central

Atlantic and New England regions); Terri Ewers (Pacific and South Central regions); and Anna O’Kelly (Central and South Atlantic regions), Thanks also to NGC Landscape Design School Consultants Councils Chairman Caroline Carbaugh who also serves as *Newscape* editor (now covers Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design School news) and



who kept an accurate listing of contacts on the Landscape Design School Directory.

*Snowdrops - Photo from longwoodgardens.org/gardens*

Special thanks to Greg Pokorski who has provided help understanding background and changes to school curriculum and other revisions made prior to this term.

Thanks also to the many local and state chairmen who organize schools in their area. Thank you to school students and consultants who attend courses. We could not do this without you!

There will be more news on changes in the foreseeable future. *The National Gardener* and *Newscape* articles will keep you updated.

***Carol Yee,  
NGC Landscape Design School Chairman***



*Crocus – photo by Caroline Carbaugh*

**From the Schools Policy and Procedure Chairman**

We all have heard that a “Portal” is being created that will house our school attendance records. This has not been put in place yet and for the next 2 years every system that is now in place will remain. *This means forms!*

You will continue to have regional chairmen that must be notified and must receive those forms. Your personal forms (yes, keep an active copy) must be submitted prior to attending a class to receive credit for that class.

There are options for sending the course roster for credit to your regional chairman. A spreadsheet and accompanying cover letter, or the regular form 5. All forms must be electronic (NOT SCANNED) so that the chairman may work with them.

It has been a pleasure to work with such a great team. I will be leaving the NGC Board. Please continue to support schools. May they continue to be offered in both Zoom and Classroom forms. Zoom has helped keep many consultants accredited that had no local school to attend and offered knowledge to many who had never attended - all at an affordable price.

Thank you for your support.

**Pat Rupiper,  
NGC Schools Policy and Procedure Chairman  
and NGC ES Chairman**



*Hellebores*

*Photos by Caroline Carbaugh*



*Witch Hazel*

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

**California**

You do not need to be the state garden club, or even a district, to sponsor and conduct NGC Schools. My club, Southern California Garden Club (based in Los Angeles’ San Fernando Valley), just completed a successful Landscape Design School. This is the fifth school we have offered. We’ve conducted three Gardening Schools, a Flower Show School, and two Tri-Refreshers, and are now planning another Gardening School to begin next summer. We have 160 members now. We were smaller when we conducted previous schools.

All four courses were completed within a seven-week period. We could use the venue (a church with a school on the premises) only during the summer when school was not in session. The students liked the fast track, but that did present some challenges for the chairmen involved. A student commented, “We learned and ate and learned again and it was wonderful!”

Most of the six instructors involved were new to NGC Schools but had favorable impressions. Ron Ruiz said he enjoyed meeting all the students and the experience and hopes to do it again. All indicated willingness to teach again. Of the 50 individuals who attended one or more courses, all who took the exams passed and we have 23 new Landscape Design Consultants who completed all four courses. Refreshing consultants travelled as far as 626 miles from the north and 145 miles from the south (the complete length of California). Ten students joined the club. This is a benefit of the in-classroom school as it was the “special event” nature of the school, the socialization, camaraderie, networking and breakfasts and special lunches (hot dog cookout, baked potato bar, pizza days etc.) that was instrumental in making students want to be part of our club.

I served as proctor and was impressed with the diligence of the students and their serious engagement in creating their own landscaping plan in Course 3 and in the evaluations of landscape designs in Course 4. The

church grounds of our school venue were the subject of the public landscape evaluation, and we travelled to the nearby home of our club president to do the residential evaluation. Enjoyable supplemental subjects included Trees, Fire-safe Landscaping and Art in the Landscape.

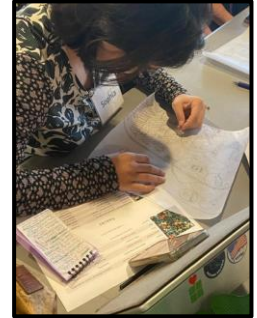
Kudos to Alexis Slafer, a landscape architect and former NGC LD Schools Accrediting Chairman, who is our California LDS Chairman and a member of our club (among several). She served as Local Chairman and with the help of a number of club members *designed* a memorable and educational event.

**Greg Pokorski,**  
**Master ES, GS, LDS Consultant from California**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

And this is the testimony of one of the instructors:

I've been a landscape architect for over 40 years and have taught various classes, but this was my first time with several subjects in the landscape design school. The outline for the classes is loose enough to allow for lots of flexibility. I learned so much in creating the material for the classes. I think that my delight in having new thoughts about landscape design translated to interest from my students. The experience has taught me that there is always more to learn, and teaching others is an inspiration that keeps me fresh in a most wonderful profession.

**Shelley Sparks,**  
 (also a member of Southern California Garden Club)



**Photos by**  
**Connie Sparks and**  
**Alexis Slafer**



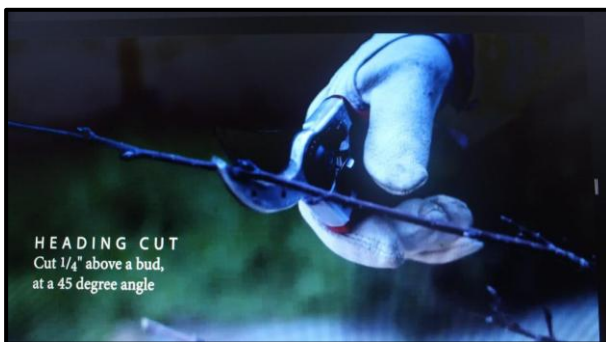
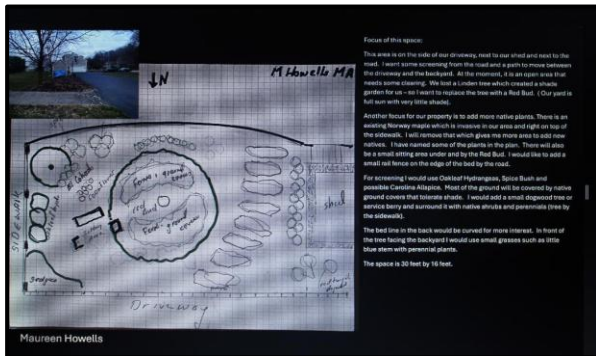
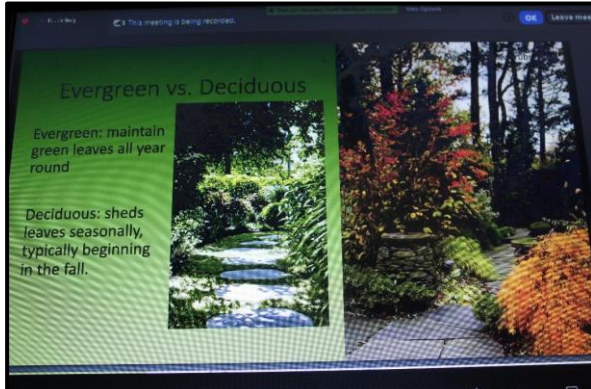
## ***Landscape Design School in Georgia***

Four Landscape Design Schools were held via Zoom/Athens, GA:

- Course 2 on November 8-9, 2023 with 26 registered
- Course 1 on March 13-14, 2024 with 22 registered
- Course 3 on April 2-3, 2024 with 21 registered
- Course 4 on May 29-30, 2024 with 18 registered

By offering virtual courses, attendees were from California, Arizona, Florida, New York, Maine, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Connecticut, Tennessee, South Carolina and of course Georgia. Marilyn McDonnell was local chairman and did a fantastic job on securing excellent Instructors.

We conducted a Tri-refresher at the Deep South Convention last week in Valdosta, Ga , March 11-13. We are having a Tri-Consultants meeting on April 30 at the Garden Club of Georgia's 97<sup>th</sup> Convention in Augusta, GA. We are proposing to establish a Tri-Consultants group rather than the 3 separate groups.



Photos by Betty Davis

**Betty Davis, LDS Chairman,  
LDS Consultants President,  
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**

## Landscape Design School in Maryland

The Federated Garden Clubs of MD Landscape Design Council will be hosting Course I of the Landscape Design School, on May 7 & 8, 2025 at the Double Tree by Hilton, Columbia, MD 21045. For more information about the classes being offered, please go the [fgcmd.org](http://fgcmd.org) website or contact Landscape Design School Chairman, Linda Harris at [lindaharris355@aol.com](mailto:lindaharris355@aol.com). Landscape Design Schools are open to everyone whether or not they are garden club members. The FGCoMD Landscape Design Council also awarded four awards for 2024, for a total of \$500.00, to FGCoMD garden clubs for their community projects. The awards are for Landscape Work at a Public Site, the Mae Scott Tapestry Award for a garden club or an individual garden club member, and Habitat for Humanity Site.

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

## Pennsylvania Longwood Re-imagined

Longwood Gardens has recently opened their biggest project yet, a \$250 million project that includes a breathtaking West Conservatory that appears to be floating on water, a new building to host the famous Cascade Garden, (originally created by the renowned Brazilian Landscape Designer, Roberto Burle Marx), and a new bonsai pavilion and demonstration area. The infrastructure has also been upgraded to include a large building called The Grove which houses a much larger and brighter library, state-of-the art classrooms, and many departments' offices. The cafeteria is now an enlarged café, and a new restaurant has been built under the East Conservatory which overlooks the Main Fountain Area. (reservations strongly recommended). <https://longwoodgardens.org/new-garden-experience>

While Longwood prides itself on having 5 beautiful seasons of interest (Christmas is its own season), I encourage you to visit our Garden Capital (<https://americasgardencapital.org/>) between May 25 and October 31<sup>st</sup> because the Brandywine Passport will



**Waterlily Court**

admit you to 12 different venues in the Brandywine River Valley, including Longwood Gardens, Mt. Cuba, Winterthur and Nemours for an amazing price of \$49.00 <https://www.visitwilmingtonde.com/passport/> (\$99. Per family of 2 adults and 3 children)



**Orchid House**

**Cascade Garden**



**West Conservatory**

In the 17 years I have been a docent at Longwood, I have watched Longwood grow exponentially in what it has to offer and in the crowds that are drawn to it.

You'll want to make your required timed reservations well in advance. I highly recommend visiting Longwood Gardens on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday evening so that you can take in the most dazzling Illuminated Fountain show, set to music, that you will ever see. The Illuminated show is free with admission. In planning a trip, keep in mind that the Illuminated Fountain Show begins at 9:15 p.m. May through August, and begins at 8:15 pm in September and October.

Treat yourself to a family vacation, a Garden Club Road Trip, or a District-wide bus tour. With careful planning, you could also use the Passport to plan one of the NGC Schools or design a Tri-Refresher. The possibilities are endless!

**Sharon Richardson,  
Central Area PA LDC Chair**

**Paradise Under Glass**

Each year for the past decade, Longwood Gardens has selected a book for their Community Reads Program. This year's choice is *Paradise Under Glass: The Education of an Indoor Gardener* by Ruth Kassinger. In December, I received a gift from Longwood for District I -- a box of Ruth's book.

Longwood Gardens' 2025 Community Read selection takes you on one woman's journey to create a beautiful indoor garden at her home as a place of learning and sanctuary after an inspiring visit to a public garden conservatory. What a perfect complement to our own journey in creating Longwood Reimagined/A New Garden Experience ... which includes a stunning new conservatory, the preservation of a historic indoor garden by acclaimed Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx, and other memorable experiences. (Longwood Gardens, 2025)

*Paradise Under Glass* is a witty, absorbing memoir about one woman's unlikely desire to build, stock, and tend a small conservatory in her suburban Maryland home. (Kassinger, 2025)

I started 2025 with this book, and I am delighted with my choice. I learned so much about plants, history, conservatories, and plant exploration. The book really resonated with me because I consider myself a relatively new gardener, having come to

this hobby as a senior citizen and because I have been fantasizing about creating my own sunroom in our new retirement home.

Coincidentally, last spring, my garden club started a book club. We each take a turn selecting a nature or garden book. Some of us have chosen titles from the Longwood Reads previous selections (scroll down). I have the box of *Paradise Under Glass* ready for my club. Longwood Gardens also provides discussion questions for your group. This box of books will be available on rotation to all District I Garden Clubs who would like to borrow it. Any club president interested in borrowing the books should e-mail me with the subject line BOOK.

**Sharon Richardson,  
Central Area PA LDC Chair**

## Texas

### Landscape Design School

Series XXVII, Course IV was held in College Station, Texas on February 10-11, 2025 at the George Bush Presidential Library. Attendance was at 63 students and, once again, the master gardeners outnumbered the garden club members.

Topics presentations ranged from “Community Participation in Urban and Community Design”, “The Healing Power of Plants and Nature”, “History & Development of Community Gardens”, “History of Suburban Design”, “Agroecology”, “Resilient Urban Design”, “Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Designs” and “Contemporary Landscape Design Trends”.

What was surprising during this school is that every student took the Final Exam for credit. Not one garden club member was refreshing for the continuation of their nationally accredited “Landscape Design Consultant” designation. The good news is that those garden club members who refresh don’t have to take the Final Exam. However, everyone passed with excellent grades and it certainly helps when the chairman gives an oral review right before the Final is given! The next school is September 29-30, 2025. See Ya’ll there...

**Diane Mackenroth,  
Texas Landscape Design School Chairman**

## NGC Schools

### Increase Membership by Conducting NGC Schools

On February 3, NGC’s Membership Mondays presentation was about tools and resources for increasing club membership. I had the opportunity to be one of the presenters, probably based on the many schools chairmanships I have had over the years and my long-term promotion of our schools as one of NGC’s best benefits.

Conducting schools brings attention and recognition to the sponsoring organization. Clubs and districts can directly sponsor and conduct schools, focusing attention on garden club at the local level. When a club conducts a school, it can offer a discount in school fees to its members, a nice benefit for its members that also may encourage others to join the club to obtain the discount. Those seeking to become NGC Consultants must belong to a member garden club – another reason for those students who don’t already belong to a garden club to become members.

Those states where schools are conducted directly by the state garden club might want to consider conducting schools at the club and district level.

Conducting a school gives the sponsoring organization new connections: to the public (prospective students); to instructors; to those associated with the school venue. At the school you might have displays about the projects, activities and meetings of your club. Even those students who do not join your club or become Consultants can become ambassadors of good will once they learn something about your organization and its good works. All outreach and exposure increases the visibility of your organization and has the potential of attracting new members.

NGC’s Video Café (under Member Resources) <https://gardenclub.org/video-cafe> provides a brief summary of that session. I believe the video is to be posted there shortly.

**Greg Pokorski,  
Master ES/GS/LDS Consultant**

**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS SCHOOLS**

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS/REFRESHERS**

**Connecticut**

**March 25 - 26, 2025.**

**Clinton.** Course 2. (Virtual)

Contact Person: Sue Kelley  
suekelley@ctgardenclubs.org

**Kentucky**

**August 26 – 27, 2025.**

**Elizabethtown.** Course 1. (In-Person)

Contact Person: Debbie Skaggs  
Skaggs @scrtc.com

**Maryland**

**May 7 – 8, 2025.**

**Columbia.** Course 1. (In-Person)

Contact Person: Linda Harris  
Lindaharris355@aol.com

**Massachusetts**

**March 25 – 27, 2025**

**Waltham.** Course 3. (Virtual)

Contact Person: Susan MacPherson  
Rmacpham@me.com

**Michigan**

**May 14 – 15, 2025.**

**Lansing.** Course 3. (In-Person)

Contact person: Ronalee Polad  
rpolad@migardenclubs.org

**Virginia**

**April 7 – 8, 2025.**

**Richmond.** Course 4. (In-Person)

Contact person: Glenda Knowles  
ggknowles6@gmail.com

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS/REFRESHERS**

**Michigan**

**April 7 – 8, 2025.**

**Augusta.** Course 1. (In-Person)

Contact Person: Bunny LaDuke  
rhladuke@aol.com

**Missouri**

**March 24 – 27, 2025.**

**St. Louis.** Course 2. (Zoom)

Contact Person: Jan Conant  
djconant@msn.com

**Connecticut**

**September 18 - 19, 2025**

**Derby.** Course 4. (Zoom)

Contact Person: Virginia Cassanova  
ginny.cassanova@ctgardenclubs.org

**GARDENING SCHOOLS/REFRESHERS**

**California**

**July 10 -11, 2025.**

**Encino .** Course 1. In-Person.

Contact person: Robin Pokorski  
CGCIRobin@aol.com

**August 14 - 15, 2025.**

**Encino .** Course 2. In-Person.

Contact person: Robin Pokorski  
CGCIRobin@aol.com

**October 23 - 24, 2025.**

**Encino .** Course 2. In-Person.

Contact person: Robin Pokorski  
CGCIRobin@aol.com

**March 28 – 29, 2025.**

**Sawyer .** Course 1. In-Person.

Contact person:  
Migardenclubs.org  
rpolad@migardenclubs.org

**Massachusetts**

**April 9 - 11, 2025.**

Course 3. Zoom.

Contact person: Linda Jean Smith  
Lindajeane.smith@comcast.net

**South Carolina**

**June 11 – 12, 2025.**

**Spartanburg.** Course 3. In-Person.

Contact person: Karen Allen  
saludalake21@aol.com

**Washington**

**April 28 – 29, 2025.**

**Tacoma.** Course 3. (In-Person)

Contact Person: Kathy Johnson  
Kathyj16@msn.com

**NGC MULTIPLE REFRESHERS**

**Florida.**

**April 8 – 10, 2025. Jacksonville.**

Tri-Refresher in Environmental, Gardening, & Landscape Design Schools Sponsored by Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Includes a behind-the-scenes tour of the Jacksonville Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Contact: Jennifer Barber  
jenniferbarberffgc@gmail.com..

**NGC SYMPOSIUMS**

**April 29 – 30, 2025.**

**Basking Ridge, NJ**

Contact Person: Gail Bassolino  
cbassolino@aol.com

**April 29 – 30, 2025.**

**Mansfield, Ohio**

Contact Person: Winnie Garabis  
wgarabis@yahoo.com

**June 19 – 21, 2025.**

**Macon, GA**

Contact Person: Edna McClellan  
Ednaeae.@ellijay.com

**June 23 – 25, 2025.**

**Little Rock, AK**

Contact Person: Terri Waterman  
terriafgc@gmail.com

**August 6-7, 2025.**

**Birmingham, AL**



Contact Person: Delaine Spencer  
delspen@aol.com

**August 12 – 13, 2025.**

**Clinton, IA**

Contact Person: Karen Blackmore  
karen@kewpie.net

**August 26 – 28, 2025.**

**Pearl, MS.**

Contact Person: Carol Bullard  
Carol.m.bullard@gmail.com

**October 16 – 17, 2025.**

**Oak Hill, CT.**

Contact Person: Cindy Marien  
cstarmien@aol.com

**October 27 – 28, 2025.**

**Elkhart Lake, WI.**

Contact Person: Liz Murken  
lizmurken@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

**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, under *Get Involved* on the home page or 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>



*Japanese apricot*

**Newscape Editor:**

**Caroline Carbaugh -  
cscarbaugh@verizon.net**

**Green Spring Gardens,  
Alexandria, VA**

