



***The Garden Club of South Carolina  
Welcomes You  
To Historic Charleston, SC  
For  
Landscape Design School – Course 4***

**Tuesday, November 11 to Wednesday, November 12, 2025**

**Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site (CTL)**

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.

## ***- Course 4 Curriculum -***

Course 4 is the fourth of four courses in Series 17 of the Landscape Design Study Program. Garden club members, Master Gardeners, home owners, public officials, nurserymen and others are urged to avail themselves of the expert instructions presented by outstanding lecturers engaged for the school. Courses may be taken out of sequence and in any state.

## ***- Topics Covered -***

### **Contemporary Landscape Design Trends**

J.R. Kramer

### **Suburban Design**

Rebecca Fanning

### **Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Designs**

Marie Frier, Allen McDonald

### **Community Participation in Landscaping Projects**

Katie Bell

### **History and Development of Community Gardens**

Jesse Blom

### **Water Resources: How to Integrate and Conserve in the Residential Landscape**

Darby Vedder

### **Field Trip to Historic Charleston Public Gardens**

## ***- Instructors -***

### **J.R. Kramer, PLA, LEED AP**

Managing Partner – REMARK Studio, LLC

Registered Landscape Architect in the State of South Carolina

University of Georgia – Landscape Architecture

### **Marie Frier, PLA, ALSA, LEED, AP**

Director of Business Development, Outdoor Spatial Design

Registered Landscape Architect in the State of South Carolina

Louisiana State University – Landscape Architecture

### **Allen McDonald, PLA, ASLA**

Director of Residential Design – Outdoor Spatial Design LLC.

Registered Landscape Architect in the State of South Carolina

University of Georgia – Landscape Architecture, Horticulture

### **Katie Bell, BA**

Director of Operations & Education – Charleston Parks Conservancy

Certified Agriculture Education Instructor

Clemson University - Horticulture

## **Jesse Blom, BA, MS**

Executive Director - The Green Heart Project

Dartmouth College, University of Wisconsin

## **Rebecca Fanning, BA, MS, MPA**

Director of Resilience & Natural Resource Management – Town of Sullivans Island

Adjunct Professor – College of Charleston

Bard College, College of Charleston

## **Darby Vedder**

Owner, Lead Designer – Cardinal Pond Designs and Landscaping, LLC

## ***- Course Schedule -***

Check-in registration begins Tuesday morning at 8:30 with the program beginning promptly at 9:00. Tuesday morning will be dedicated to presentations followed by lunch. Students may choose from regular, vegetarian or gluten free offerings. After lunch we will travel in private cars to downtown Charleston to tour and evaluate selected gardens. Students are then free to adjourn once they have completed their visits.

Wednesday registration will begin at 8:30 with the program beginning at 9:00. Presentations should be finished at about 1:00 at which time we will adjourn. Students taking the exam will stay for lunch which will be followed by the exam. Typically, the exam will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

# ***Field Trip to Historic Charleston Public Gardens***

We will be visiting the following public gardens in downtown Charleston to observe the impact of community engagement and conduct on-site evaluations of each garden's design. We will introduce and utilize the National Garden Club's Evaluation Guidelines to quantify the various landscape design components that should be considered when evaluating a property. Students will travel via their private cars to the gardens. Street parking is available along with several paid parking lots/garages directly across the street from the gardens.

## **Restoration of the circa 1800 Joseph Manigault Home Garden**

Imagine during difficult financial times having to sell off part of a circa 1800 historic garden for the construction of a gas station.



Learn how community involvement funded, reclaimed and restored this public garden to its original circa 1800 splendor.



## Revitalization to Wragg Square Public Garden

This early 19<sup>th</sup> century park was revitalized over a period of several years via collaboration with neighborhood community groups, local government and interested private individuals.



## Renovation of Vangie Rainsford Park

The neighborhood association funded and drove the renovation of this small garden as a gateway to the Charleston Garden District.





## **Philip Simmons Memorial Garden**

Renowned ironworker Philip Simmons and topiary artist Pearl Fryer collaborated on the design and installation of this garden now maintained by volunteers with the Garden Club of Charleston.



## ***- Restaurants and Accommodations -***

If you choose to stay in town for a drink or dinner Tuesday night after the garden tours there are several nice restaurants close by the gardens on Hutson Alley and King Street.

For those of you who are wishing to spend the night, there are many hotels in the Historic District, West Ashley, Mt. Pleasant and North Charleston. Charles Towne Landing is conveniently and centrally located to all areas. Also, the Dewberry Hotel, Embassy Suites and Hampton Inn are directly across the street from the gardens to be visited in the Historic District.

## **- Course Registration -**

Student Enrollment will be open until October 30 or when the class reaches capacity, whichever comes first. Due to our limited seating capacity and anticipated high level of demand we recommend that you promptly register if interested.

In order to register, please click on the link below to access the course registration form. Mail your completed registration form and a check to the Course Registrar at the indicated PO Box. You will receive an email receipt notification.

[https://gardenclubofsc.org/images/downloads/Schools/registration\\_form\\_2025\\_v3.pdf](https://gardenclubofsc.org/images/downloads/Schools/registration_form_2025_v3.pdf)

## **- NGC Consultant Certification -**

The School program is offered as a service to the public, but only members of a club federated with the National Garden Clubs Inc. are eligible to become NGC Landscape Consultants. All members who successfully complete all four courses with exam results at 70% or higher will qualify for the title of National Garden Clubs (NGC) "Landscape Design Consultant."

Out of state students who are members of a NGC affiliated club may also receive certification credit for completing this course and exam. Please request an official record from your State School Chair.

To remain in Good Standing, Consultants may Refresh after one year, but must refresh before five years from the date of achieving Consultant status. They must attend all lectures, but do not need to take the examination. After a Consultant's fourth refresher they achieve Master Consultant status.

Nonmembers may complete the courses and the exam, join an NGC garden club within a year from the last course, and become an NGC "Landscape Design Consultant."

All Garden Club of South Carolina Landscape Design Consultants also automatically become a member of the GCSC Consultants Council.



# **- IMPORTANT NGC FORMS -**

***For***

## ***Consultant Certification***

All attendees seeking credit for this program must have an NGC Form 6 or 7 on record with the GCSC School State Chair. Students that are working toward but not yet Consultants should fill out a Form 6. Existing Consultants that are Refreshing need to fill out Form 7. Follow the links below:

NGC Form 6

[Click here for NGC Form 6](#)

NGC Form 7

[Click here for NGC Form 7](#)

Both forms are PDF fillable forms. Download the appropriate form and save to your computer. Open and complete the form and save again. Email the completed form to the State Chairman. Forms must be received prior to the October 30 registration deadline to receive credit for taking the course.

Submit your completed Form 6 or Form 7 via email to:

GCSC State Chairman

[scldsp@gmail.com](mailto:scldsp@gmail.com)

**Note:** If you are auditing the course for no credit or are not a garden club member you do not have to complete these forms.

## **- Program Cost -**

***Students taking the exam (Tuition, exam and 2 lunches): \$150***

***Students Refreshing or Auditing (Tuition and 1 lunch): \$110***

Lunch is included for all participants on Tuesday and those taking the exam on Wednesday.

Extra lunches can be ordered for \$25 each.

Refunds of the registration fee will be considered on an individual basis. Please submit your request in writing to [scldsp@gmail.com](mailto:scldsp@gmail.com) or Landscape Design School, PO Box 2366, Mt Pleasant, SC 29465. Refunds will be determined based on expenses incurred.

## **- Additional Information -**

For additional information or questions please contact:

Paul Gilson

Chairman – South Carolina Landscape Design School

[pgilson@verizon.net](mailto:pgilson@verizon.net)