



***The Garden Club of South Carolina  
Welcomes You  
To Historic Charleston, SC  
For  
Landscape Design School – Course 1***

**Tuesday, October 27 to Wednesday, October 28, 2026**

**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.

# ***-2026 Keynote Speaker-***

## **Restoration of George Washington's Mt. Vernon Gardens**

Celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> with Dean Norton, Mt. Vernon's Director of Horticulture Emeritus. With over a 5-decade association with Mt. Vernon, Dean's engaging presentation will highlight the efforts to faithfully restore the gardens and meticulously preserve the landscapes of Washington's beloved home.

# ***- Program Curriculum -***

## **Through the Ages: Historical View of Landscape Design**

Garden Historian/Designer Karen Prewitt will be leading us through the development of landscape design including Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Medieval, Islamic, Renaissance and Victorian influences.

## **Space, Design and People**

Parks Director Kellen Goodell will discuss creating landscapes that are both functional and aesthetically pleasing with a view of how renowned designer Piet Oudolf approaches this topic.

## **Developing Your Garden Plan & Basics of a Site Plan**

Landscape Architects Marie Frier & Allen McDonald will speak to the process and tools professionals use to develop garden plans and how homeowners may use similar processes in creating plans for their own properties.

## **Learning About Your Ecosystem**

Our neighborhoods are environments that include all life from fungus to the tallest trees. Restoration Ecologist Rebecca Fanning will discuss learning about our natural ecosystems as a foundation before trying to create landscapes that are artificial ecosystems.

## **Color in the Landscape**

Color attracts the eye and draws the attention of the viewer. Garden Designer Linda Greenberg will present how color from foliage, flowers, bark, or hardscape can be introduced into the garden to enhance a given design.

## **Water Wise Gardening**

Be it Drought, Rain or Flood, South Carolina has it all. Ecologist and Educator Sharleen Johnson will address water wise gardening. Be it in selecting the right plant for the right place or simple design techniques to effectively utilize your local environment.

## **Design for the Environment**

Landscape Designer and Horticulturist Beverly Rivers will deep dive into Plant ecology including natives, nativars, non-native exotics and invasive species and their impact on your landscape and the environment.

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

Course 1 is the first of four courses in Series 18 of the Landscape Design Study Program. Courses may be taken out of sequence and in any state.

Check-in registration begins Tuesday morning at 8:30 with the program beginning promptly at 9:00. Lunch will be provided to all students who may choose from regular, vegetarian or gluten free offerings. The Tuesday program will adjourn at 5:00 PM.

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.

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.

## ***- Historic Home & Garden Tours -***

We intentionally scheduled our Fall Program to coincide with the Preservation Society of Charleston's Fall Home & Garden Tours. For those who wish to spend an extra day or two exploring Charleston, or if you are traveling with a non-student friend, the Fall Tours provide a unique opportunity to experience our city. Now in its 50th year, the Society's signature Fall Tours are specially designed to showcase Charleston's unique cultural and architectural heritage. Enjoy walking tours, house and garden tours, or in-depth tours of neighborhoods and residences all throughout the city. The Tours run from October 1 thru October 31. Additional information may be found at the Preservations Society web site at:

<https://www.preservationsociety.org/fall-tours/>

## ***- Course Registration -***

Student Enrollment will be open until October 15 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.

[2026 Landscape Design School Registration Form](#)

## ***- 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 15 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

Garden Club of South Carolina Landscape Design School

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