

CAR Review



Beverly Kazickas, Director



From Our Director:

Theme: Gardening for a Healthy Mind, Body and Soul

Dear Members,

I hope you enjoyed a summer of joy and gratitude as our country celebrated its 250th Anniversary.

When it comes to celebrating, the Central Atlantic Region certainly knows how to 'paaarty'! I am honored to have visited all 7 states in our Region during my 1st year as Director. Many thanks for the warm hospitality. This spring was a whirlwind of travel as I attended 9 conventions in 8 states during an 8 week period which included attending the National Garden Clubs Annual Convention in St. Louis. It was a great experience at each and every event.

The CAR-SGC certainly has a wonderful group of dedicated, interesting and fun-loving gardeners! During my term, I'm working to strengthen ties to our local garden clubs through visits and promotion of my Director's theme ... *PLANT AMERICA: Gardening for a healthy mind, body and soul*. I am proud to announce that a monetary gift will be awarded to the State Garden Club project that best embodies this theme. The award will be presented at the 2026 CAR-SGC Conference to be held in Cleveland, Ohio during the 3rd week of October.

Additionally, I strive to develop a closer relationship with the clubs of the Central Atlantic Region by collecting historical data from the 7 States for our CAR-SGC Archives which will be included on the Region's website. Let us not forget those leaders who came before us, thus, I've reached out to our former Regional Directors and State Presidents for assistance with this task.

I hope to see many of you this fall at our Conference in Cleveland. It is going to be a terrific event with the celebration of CAR-SGC's Anniversary, the sale of a Commemorative Scarf marking the occasion

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs: www.car-sgc.org

**Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs: Alva Hutchison
www.delawaregardenclubs.org**

**Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.: Donna Miller
www.fgcofmd.org**

**National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.: Danielle Brabazon
www.ncagardenclubs.org**

**The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.: Sue Berdahl
www.gardenclubofnewjersey.com**

**Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.: Elizabeth Walker
www.fgcny.com**

**Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.: Debra Turner
www.gardenclubofohio.org**

**Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania: Pat Wolanski
www.pagardenclubs.org**

**Caroline Carbaugh, Editor
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(see photo), presentations of new Speaker Topics, announcement of our newest Award, fabulous Flower Show with entries from all 7 states representing our Region (please see the show schedule on the CAR website), and a Bus Tour of must see historic landmarks plus much more. EVERYONE is invited to attend from October 19 -21, 2026. Don't delay ... Sign up today! Registration closes on September 20th.

Lastly, I have a new email address for posting in club yearbooks and on websites. Please use carsgc.director.2527@gmail.com and PO Box 206, Amagansett, NY 11930 I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you all the best,
Beverly

Beverly Kazickas,
CAR-SGC Region Director 2025-2027



CAR-SGC 10th Anniversary Scarf



CAR at NGC in St. Louis



**Debra Turner of Ohio
accepts GCO Award**



**Pat Wolanski
accepts for PA**

**NGC's Award of
Excellence for
States**



**CAR State
Presidents**

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**Arlene Stewart, Shirley Nicolai,
Danielle Brabazon**

CAR-SGC Conference 2026



Please do not miss your chance to join us in Cleveland, Ohio on October 19 and 20 for the 2026 CAR Conference with a special bus tour on the 21st. Our planning committee is busy making sure this conference is one you will not want to miss! Here are a few sneak peeks!

Our speakers will be bringing new ways to look at our gardens. For example, we will learn how vegetables telegraph their nutrition via stunning hues, experience colors only pollinators can see and uncover the mechanisms of the dazzling display of autumn leaves; how an Ozone Garden can help us determine the amount of ground ozone in our environment and how this information, when reported to NASA is part of a worldwide study on air quality and how it affects plants and animals. We will also have a program discussing the value of native trees in our landscapes. The speaker is hoping to bring saplings for each of us to take home! We will also hear about “The Wilds”, an incredibly successful conservation program in mid-Ohio and how an abandoned strip mine was brought back to life and given a new purpose.

The Ohio Conference will also feature a flower show! At this writing, there are still several spots left! Our goal is for every state to be represented in this show so we can show off the design talent throughout the Central Atlantic Region! Please be sure to check out the Flower Show Schedule included in the Registration information.

And let’s not forget that bus tour! We will start by visiting the world famous Rock Hall followed by a lunch and then off to the historic and beautiful Lakeview Cemetery long known for its beautiful garden landscapes and monuments including the President James A Garfield Memorial.

*Looking forward to seeing you all in
“Ohio - The Heart of it All”*



Rock and Roll Hall of Fame



Garfield Monument and Lakeview Cemetery

From Our States:

Delaware



Alva Hutchison

Greetings from Delaware! As our nation celebrates the 250th Anniversary, members accepted the challenge to PLANT AMERICA Red, White and Blue! Don't you love this photo of the Plantation Lakes Garden Club's Children's Garden!

Looking back, we welcomed Beverly Kazickas and her husband Michael to our DFGC state meeting in April. Our program speaker shared stories of the Underground Railroad and how following hints from nature helped to lead slaves north. Members of Clubs accepted the Centerpiece Challenge, judged by members of the Judges Council and awarded cash prizes. See the photo from Salt Air Gardeners with Club President, Sue Giusto and the winning Designer Suzanne Morgis.



In June, Kevin Dodge delighted us with the "Sights and Sounds of the Night". He has the extraordinary ability to mock the sounds of birds, frogs and other critters and throughout the program Kevin challenged us to join in. Garden Gate Garden Club, under the leadership of Kelly Koontz provided the centerpieces of 3 shade-loving perennial plants, ready to go into our gardens. The design included fairy lights and a woodsy owl. What fun! A total of 65 awards were given in our June meeting. In addition, 4 clubs were recognized for Standard of Excellence. Congratulations to all!

Like many other organizations, garden clubs in Delaware are challenged to maintain membership and develop new leaders. Our local club membership is down 10% and attendance at our state meetings is down. Why? What can we do differently? We decided to address the issue when we gathered the club presidents and board members. Sandra Fitt, DFGC 1st Vice President, prepared questions to ponder during roundtable discussions which brought honest conversations and suggestions that will bring forth changes.



Looking ahead, we are excited to offer a Floral Design seminar featuring the renowned Esther Thrash of the Tidewater District of Virginia. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, September 30. To register and more information, contact Sandra Fitt: fittconsulting@gmail.com.

A Gold Star Memorial Marker will be dedicated at our November meeting. It is designated to be placed in the Memorial Garden for the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base, home of the only military mortuary.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year is the NGC Holiday Standard Flower Show sponsored by the Delaware Flower Show Judges Council. Members from throughout the state are participating in the Show the day of our November meeting. NGC President Donna Donnelly plans to attend this November meeting. It promises to be a "most wonderful time"!

**Alva Hutchison, President,
Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs**

Maryland



Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland has been in full swing during the spring and summer months enjoying all things garden. At our 97th Annual Meeting we enjoyed the NGC Small Standard Flower Show titled "Celebrating 100 Years,

Yesterday and Today (1926-

Donna Miller

2026)" hosted by our Judges Council. I was honored to present the President's Centennial Award to the design that I felt best captured the artistic interpretation of the flower show title. Unbeknownst to me, the judges also awarded it Best in Show! So, I guess I do have some hidden talent in discerning floral designs.



May brought a memorable trip to St. Louis for the NGC Annual Conference. Many interesting programs and speakers were featured as well as an exciting, yet rainy trip to NGC Headquarters.



The summer months have been filled with club anniversary celebrations, garden tours, and Flower Shows.

Unique to FGCMD, we celebrated the annual Alice Rush McKeon Tree planting where 9 native species were planted at the Lake Shore Athletic Complex in Pasadena. Alice Rush McKeon, a direct descendant of Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, spent most of her life in Maryland, where she became a leading voice in roadside conservation and public awareness campaigns. She served twice as president of FGCMD. Her 1931 book, *The Litterbug Family*, used poems and illustrations to warn against littering and is credited with helping spur Maryland's first billboard control law, a landmark in early environmental regulation. She is also widely associated with popularizing—possibly coining—the term "litterbug."

Photographer Donna Miller



In the upcoming months, four Flower Shows and a design program are on our calendar:

Sept. 17 – 20 Charles County Garden Club's "Snippets of America's Semi quincennial" NGC Standard Flower Show, Charles County Fairgrounds

Sept. 24 - Kent Island Garden Club Small Standard Flower Show, "Bon Appetit", Kent Island Library, 200 Library Circle 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Sept. 24 - 27 St. Mary's County Garden Club's "Let Freedom Ring" NGC Standard Patriotic Flower Show, St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

Oct. 17 Four Rivers Garden Club "From Sea to Shining Sea - Happy Birthday America" NGC Standard Flower Show, Annapolis, MD

Nov. 5 Design Program featuring Mike Burch of Potomac Floral Design Studio, The Atrium at Soaring Timbers, 610 N. Bestgate Rd., Annapolis

Looking forward to the CAR-SGC Conference in Independence, OH!

**Donna Miller, President,
Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland**

National Capital Area



Danielle Brabazon

were able to gather and celebrate our organization. Besides some sharing from officers and round table conversations, we were

The National Capital Area was thrilled to have CAR-SGC Director Beverly Kazickas attend our 75th Anniversary Leadership Luncheon at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland on June 2nd! Leaders from 95% of our clubs and Districts



entertained by a cellist from the DCYOP (DC Youth Orchestra Program - www.dcyop.org) during lunch.



As members gathered, they played a Mix and Mingle Raffle game to find four people to meet very specific criteria. Once they completed their raffle sheet, it turned into the raffle ticket that was placed in one of the multiple raffle baskets of items donated by local businesses. As it was our 75th Anniversary, a white rose bush was the last item raffled off.

NCAGC established a relationship with the DCYOP as an outreach to the community. In November of 2025, our Judges Council created the centerpieces

for their 65th Anniversary event and in kind, they provided the cellist for our luncheon. Our collaboration with DCYOP provided an opportunity to reach a new audience as well as providing an opportunity for DCYOP students to perform and enhance their college applications.

Providing opportunities for members of NCAGC to attend NGC schools is a top priority. The Landscape Design School was completed with Course IV being offered in April. Gardening School collaborated with the Montgomery County Master Gardeners in April to offer Course 2 and we are looking forward to planning Course 3 and Course 4 before April 2027!

We are excited to have our "Shining Through the Years" Flower Show at the National Arboretum in September! Entries and judging are Friday, September 25th. The show is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, September 26th and 27th! We are planning a youth activity on Sunday afternoon as well to continue with this terms theme of "Seeding Our Future".

We invite you to follow National Capital Area Garden Clubs on Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/NCAGC/>) or Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/nationalcapitalarea/>) to see the latest and greatest in our area!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Ohio!

**Danielle Brabazon, President,
National Capital Area Garden Clubs**



Photos by Shirley Nicolai

New Jersey

As summer comes to a close, we reflect on a season of accomplishments despite New Jersey's challenging weather, from extreme heat to strong winds and heavy rain. In June, we held a special meeting to present scholarships to several deserving students. Many of the recipients attended with their parents, and it was a pleasure to meet this next generation of environmental stewards. Hearing about their commitment to protecting our natural world was truly inspiring. The celebration concluded with a wonderful assortment of refreshments shared by all.



Sue Berdahl

Communities across New Jersey have been celebrating America's 250th anniversary with parades and special events. The Shrewsbury Garden Club proudly participated in a parade commemorating three significant milestones: the club's 70th anniversary, the Town of Shrewsbury's 100th anniversary, and our nation's 250th anniversary.



The Karen Nash Memorial Butterfly Garden also marked the nation's 250th anniversary with a special celebration.



The Garden Club of New Jersey continues to volunteer in maintaining the quarter-acre schoolyard wildlife habitat known as the Karen Nash Memorial Butterfly Garden, working alongside local youth. Founder Diana Dove continues to create outstanding educational opportunities for young people while promoting this year's theme, "The Importance of Pollinators – Go Native!"



The Garden Club of Fair Haven recently rededicated its bird sanctuary and expanded the site by adding a beautiful pollinator garden, further demonstrating the club's commitment to supporting local wildlife and native habitats.

Looking ahead, many of our clubs are preparing for exciting fall flower shows. The West Trenton Garden Club will present its "Color Me Autumn" Flower Show, the Neshanic Garden Club will host its "Joyful Harvest" Flower Show, and The Garden Club of Montclair will celebrate "A Century in Bloom: Designing Through the Decades," showcasing the creativity and artistry of floral design throughout the years.



We wish everyone a wonderful close to the summer season and look forward to another busy and beautiful autumn in our gardens.

**Sue Berdahl, President,
Garden Club of New Jersey**

New York



Beth Walker

As with most gardeners on the East Coast, FGCNYS's members have spent the summer alternating between watering our personal and community gardens during the extreme heat and worrying about them being washed out by torrential rain.

The impact on our summer flower shows was apparent in the reduced amount of horticulture offerings.

Clubs across NY are finalizing plans and entries for late-summer and autumn flower shows. There are a variety of shows scheduled, many of them continuing the patriotic theme of the USA's 250th anniversary. Show organizers have challenged their design exhibitors by including different classes in their shows, including assemblage, collage, duo design, and tapestry.

Clubs are working on their programs for 2027 so yearbooks can be ready for distribution early next year. FGSNYS has several clubs with major anniversaries in 2027 and special teas or events are planned.

FGCNYS continues to develop our inaugural citizen science project with Cornell University. The focus has changed slightly as the project proposes to study solitary bees rather than honeybees. Most of the preliminary details have been finalized and we will discuss the project at our next Board meeting. Once final Board approval is obtained, the process of fund-raising to cover the expenses of the project will begin.

The fourth and final session of Flower Show School (FSS) will take place in Voorheesville, NY, on October 5th – 8th with a Zoom session on October 1st. The first three sessions were notable for the open and easy sharing of information between the instructors and students. The fourth session should be every bit as enjoyable.

Our Symposium is scheduled for November 4th and 5th in Albany, NY. What to say about it... wonderful

instructors, lovely venue, great food! All are welcome!

Information about both FSS Course 4 and the Symposium is on the FGCNYS website: fgcnys.com.

**Beth Walker, President,
Federated Garden Clubs of New York State**

Ohio



Debra Turner

Ohio welcomes all of you to the CAR-SGC Conference in Cleveland Oct. 19-20. We hope you'll have a great time. Elsewhere in this newsletter, I'm sure you'll read all about the wonderful conference

offerings, including the optional tour Oct. 21 of the Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame, historic Lakeview Cemetery and more. If you have time, stop by the Cleveland Museum of Art. It charges no admission. I often go straight to the Impressionism and post-impressionism galleries.

The Western Reserve Herb Society holds its 79th Herb Fair at the Cleveland Botanical Society's Clark Hall Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be herb garden tours as well as free workshops and herb talks. Many items will be for sale, including eco-dyed scarves, culinary mixes, teas, baked goods, pressed flowers, tussie mussies, wreaths, potpourri, jams and jellies.

Giving a special design show for both Holiday Shows South and North Nov. 4 and 5 will be NGC design instructor Shirley Tetreault of New Mexico. Shirley teaches judges at the Symposium level as well as beginning designers taking classes at the Albuquerque Garden Center and those in her garden and design clubs. One of her students in the Albuquerque Garden Center classes was so inspired, she started attending Flower Show School, joined a garden club, and began entering designs in flower shows. That student was me. When we in Ohio were wishing we could get more people to design and more people to go to Flower Show School, it occurred to me that I know someone who can cause that to happen: Shirley Tetreault. We asked her to

come and to inspire us. She accepted. She'll be in the Columbus area at Worthington Hills Country Club Nov. 4. She'll be in the Cleveland area at the Woodside Event Center at St. Michael's in Broadview Heights Nov. 5.

**Debra Turner, President,
Garden Club of Ohio**

Pennsylvania



Since our last CAR Review in November, The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania has celebrated our members, received national recognition, and strengthened our connection with communities throughout the Commonwealth.

Patricia Wolanski

At our 2026 state convention, "MysterERIE by the Bay," held at the beautiful Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, members from across Pennsylvania gathered for education, fellowship, and celebration. We were especially pleased to welcome our CAR Director, Beverly Kazickas, whose presence added to the excitement and camaraderie of this memorable event.

At the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention in St. Louis, Pennsylvania received the prestigious NGC SR-2 Award of Excellence for States, the highest award presented by NGC to a state organization. This award recognized our GCFP Reads Program, a statewide initiative encouraging the appreciation of gardening, nature, and environmental literature.



One of the highlights of our year was the launch of Pennsylvania's Garden Party, our first-ever statewide garden tour. Featuring 90 beautiful gardens across the Commonwealth over two Saturdays, the tour welcomed more than 1200 visitors and received enthusiastic public response. We were especially honored to receive a proclamation from Governor Josh Shapiro recognizing this celebration of Pennsylvania gardens.

As America commemorated its 250th anniversary, our clubs embraced patriotic gardening through Red, White, and Blue Gardens appearing throughout the state. We also continued our commitment to honoring those who have served our nation through Blue and Gold Star Memorial dedications, creating lasting tributes in our communities. In addition, GCFP proudly supported the Flight 93 Memorial and the Remember Me Rose Garden, honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Our Healing Art Program continues to grow, sharing the beauty of nature through artwork and photography. We are especially proud of the recent dedication of an original piece created by our own GCFP artist, Nancy Cuttic, at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia.

This fall, as the GCFP officers begin our annual visits to each of Pennsylvania's ten districts, we look forward to meeting with our members and strengthening the friendships that make our Federation so special. Together, we remain committed to making a positive impact throughout the Commonwealth as we advance my theme: Plant America: Pennsylvania Celebrates Nature and Embraces the Future.

Together, we are making our Keystone a Gemstone.



**Pat Wolanski with
Proclamation from Governor**



Nancy Cuttic

**Patricia Wolanski, President,
Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania**

Vision of Beauty

Pictures, Pictures, Pictures. I enjoy looking at pictures of floral designs, botanical arts designs and gardens. A great resource for inspiring new design/garden pictures is the National Garden Club's Vision of Beauty Calendar. The pictures selected to be compiled in the datebook are chosen from NGC member submissions.

The 2027 Vision of Beauty Calendars are available for \$12.50 each (+shipping) in the National Garden Club store on www.gardenclub.org.

Prior year calendars are also available in the NGC store for just \$3 each (+shipping). The pictures are exceptional! I enjoy browsing the books noting new or innovated techniques, components or design types.

Have you taken a photograph of your spring, summer, fall, or winter floral design(s) or your garden. Challenge yourself. Take a picture and submit your photo. You may enter up to five (5) entries. Perhaps your entry will be chosen for inclusion in the Vision of Beauty calendar.

Your design could be traditional, creative, abstract, botanical, artistic craft, seasonal ++. Photographs of a design must be taken in front of a blank seamless background. Do not include any flower show

ribbons or entry cards in the image taken. Perhaps you are entering the CAR-SGC "The Beat Goes On" A Petite Specialty Flower Show which will be held Oct 19-20, 2026 at the CAR-SGC conference this Fall. Take a Picture.

For more information respective to submissions please go to the NGC website and search the forms library. You will find the requirement information, entry deadline and an entry form for the Vision of Beauty Calendar.



Details of entry requirements are also on the last pages of the Vision of Beauty Calendar. All submissions are sent and emailed to the **National Garden Club Vision of Beauty Calendar chair Nancy Voyles**.

**Barbara DeRue,
CAR-SGC VOB Calendar**

Sustainable Gardening

It is all about the view, OR how not to annoy Mother Nature and your neighbor.

I was recently told a story by someone, who years ago, had purchased a wonderful property, a blank slate if you will. The vision was to plant an amazing, peaceful garden sanctuary with whimsy scattered about.

Let us begin.

There was a large stand of established trees obstructing a view of the landscape beyond. SO, the trees were removed and the panoramic view appeared.

Who also appeared was an extremely irate neighbor, whose property border was down from the area where the trees were removed.

A storm with torrential rain washed all the soil from the removed tree roots, into the neighbors' property destroying their gardens in its wake.

What can we learn from this, aside from maybe a lesson on how to placate a very angry neighbor?

Tree roots and the soil form a symbiotic relationship. Tree roots anchor the tree to the soil, helping the tree withstand the storms. They absorb water and nutrients from the surrounding soil; soil which is now in the neighbors' yard!

The roots of trees support many organisms including mycorrhizal fungi- this alone is an intriguing topic. Lastly when the tree starts to age and break down so do the roots, giving back to the soil. Mother nature has designed an amazing ecosystem.

It is our job as stewards of the earth to do all that we can to sustain it; so please think through the consequences before taking steps to redesign your landscape.

*Jane Madis,
Sustainable Gardening and Xeriscaping*

CAR Life Membership

There have been no new life members in 2026. I expect to receive some life membership applications prior to the upcoming conference. I have received no notification of any contributions to the Scholarship Patronage Program.

*Claire Leichter,
CAR-SGC Membership Chair*

BEES PLE-E-E-E-E-ASE

I know I have written previously on the Bee Plight and Bee Extinction. But the crisis facing the world's bees gets worse every day. With this being the middle of summer, we are facing an insect apocalypse with 40% of invertebrate pollinators, including bees and butterflies on the brink of extinction. Consider that honey bee losses are

expected to hit over 50% this year. Add that one of every 3 bites of our food is pollinated by bees.



I'm sure you've also heard that neonicotinoids are one of the large contributing factors impacted in the Global bee die-off. The EU and Canada and some states and 115 cities along with some universities in the United States have taken action to protect bees, but retailers such as Target, Lowes or Home Depot must be convinced to eliminate neonics in their plant nurseries or pressure states to pass laws restricting bee-killing pesticides; thus making it a safer world for our pollinators. Grocery companies have a huge impact on the way we grow and produce our food. One scientist has even warned that we are heading for an "ecological Armageddon". A study has found that nearly half of insect life could disappear from the planet within the next century, leading to a collapse of nature's ecosystems and pesticide-intensive industrial agriculture is a key driver.

Excerpts taken from 'Friends of the Earth'

*Iris Cisarik, Chair,
Birds, Bugs, Butterflies and
Other Endangered Species.*

Collections, Beginners and *Begonia maculata*

Two of five 2026 flower shows I attended in Southwestern Pennsylvania featured a Collections section in their Horticulture Division. According to the 2017 NGC *Handbook for Flower Shows*, a collection consists of five or more cut or container grown specimens in individual, uniform containers, plates, mats, or bottles as specified in the Schedule for optimal viewing. Each specimen must be correctly and clearly labeled with the current



scientific designation using one chart or individual placards.



Judging a collection of the cut leaves in bottles (pictured and collected from container grown Colocasia elephant ear cultivars) is largely (>60%) based on cultural perfection (i.e., scientific growing excellence such as high health, quality, flawlessness), but NOT for visual design or props, and the lowest scoring specimen determines the highest scoring ribbon possible for the exhibit.

Another collection of boldly colored and textured leaves from five different indoor begonias were most likely grown in bright, indirect light and greater than 50% humidity to create a striking array. The pictured angel-winged cane begonia, the silver polka-dotted Begonia maculata 'Wightii' is a perfect beginner's plant. Novices will find it grows tall (1-3 ft) and is a fast grower. Replicate it by cutting a stem above a leaf node and placing it in water to root. Watering with filtered water, when the soil is one half an inch dry, prevents the fine roots from drying out while avoiding fungal issues. Cane begonias need 65-85 Fahrenheit degrees, air flow to avoid fungal and bacterial infections, and no hot or cold drafts. Let them get root bound above the soil before replanting them into the next larger-sized pot. A balanced 10-10-10 fertilizer may be applied at least monthly. Keep begonias out of reach of cats, dogs and small children due to their high calcium oxalate content. Start a collection of container or indoor plants this Fall and participate in flower shows in 2027!!

**Marilyn C. Backus, Chair,
Container and Indoor Gardening Horticulture**

Trout In The Classrooms: A Shout Out To Science Teachers

In April of this year, I read an article in our local paper that 70 brown trout fingerlings had just been successfully released by schoolchildren into

Canandaigua Lake which is one of the Finger Lakes in New York State.

What made this remarkable is that the trout were raised from eggs in a tank by middle school students in the classroom. Since trout require cold, oxygenated water the tank was connected to an external refrigeration unit and multiple aeration devices. All this was made possible by the New York State DEC, local fish hatcheries and two non-profit groups who provided the material and food for the fish.

Not only did the students participate in the joy of seeing the fish hatch and grow but the program teaches biology, life cycles, natural selection, conservation, watershed dynamics and chemistry since the water quality had to be continuously tested. What a wonderful way to prepare these students for perhaps future careers in similar fields.

**Anne Johnston,
Air & Water Conservation Chair**

Duck Creek Gardeners

Duck Creek Gardeners' annual picnic held on June 9, 2026. Members, spouses, and guests enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship, excellent burgers and hot dogs prepared by our chefs Mike and Ray, and friendly Jenga games that added to the warm atmosphere. A special moment was marked by the presentation of a gift from the current president to the former president in recognition of her dedicated service.



We were also honored by the attendance of our two founding members, and a group photo was taken to commemorate the occasion. We are also excited to announce our first sponsored bus trip to

the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 13, 2027. The bus will depart from the Duck Creek Regional Library, located at 22 S. Main Street, Smyrna, Delaware. We invite all members and guests to join us for this enriching horticultural experience.



Rita Puriefoy,
Duck Creek Gardeners

Applicants Wanted:

American Horticultural Society Herbaceous Regional Perennial Award

Each of our seven states is eligible to receive this award, which is easy to apply for and currently includes monetary rewards of \$100 for the Overall Winner and \$50 for other qualifying State Winners. Applications for 2026 NGC Flower Shows (including Small Standard Flower Shows) must be submitted by April 1, 2027.



A minimum of 20 quality herbaceous perennials in a section or class is eligible for consideration. Botanical names and clear photographs of exhibits with staging are required. The application is not to exceed 3 single pages.

Please see the CAR-SGC website for outlined details or contact Shirley Nicolai if you have questions. Fall shows with "other worthy named specimens" offer a myriad of opportunities!

Shirley Nicolai,
AHS Regional Perennial Award Chair

Youth Horticulture

These simple bird feeders are the ideal way to introduce even the youngest children to watching and feeding the birds in their garden. Get kids interested in the natural world and they will care more about it while getting involved in caring for the wildlife in their patch.



This easy cardboard roll bird feeder does require some adult assistance, and please do not make these if you or your child are or may be allergic to nuts.

Here's how to make our easy bird feeder craft:

Ingredients

- Cardboard tube (like a clean toilet paper roll)
- Peanut butter
- Bird seed
- String
- Scissors
- Bamboo skewer
- Butter knife

Instructions

1. Use the scissors to make a small hole at the top and bottom of each side of the cardboard tube.
2. Thread string through the top set of holes, then tie one end of the string to each side.
3. Push the bamboo skewer through the bottom set of holes to make a resting perch for the birds.
4. Pour bird seed into a shallow dish.
5. Using a butter knife, spread a thin layer of peanut butter over the outside of the cardboard tube. Immediately roll the tube in bird seed or press bird seed against the sides.
6. Hang the bird feeder outside on a dry day.

Barb Kiker,
Youth Horticulture Chair

Schools Coordinator Report Fall 2026

Have you been wondering how to advance or maintain your standing in the NGC Schools programs? Many schools are available in person or

via Zoom, and courses are offered in Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design. Multiple Refreshers offer the opportunity to study and update your credentials in all three topics. A new Zoom Tri-refresher is being offered October 2-3, 2026, from Ohio. Please visit the NGC website <https://gardenclub.org/our-schools> for all school updates.

This August, there are some proposed updates to the Schools Handbook (Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design).

If you are planning to attend any of the courses, the appropriate State Schools Chairman must provide the registrar with the signed Form 6 or Form 7. This will ensure that state records are updated and the state chair/state president knows who has completed courses in the schools. Email a copy of registration and ask for a current signed Form 6 or 7 from your state chairman before the class. The forms should be sent to your home state chairman first, signed, and then forwarded to the course chairman or registrar.

Each course (in-person, hybrid, or virtual) must have a minimum of 4 months between courses. Refresher credit for Consultants and Master Consultants will be granted every six months within a calendar year beginning in the year following receipt of Consultant or Master Consultant certification. This new change will keep consultants current and interested in continuing educational opportunities within the schools.

Flower Show Judges should be aware that National Garden Clubs, Inc. FORM 18 (3/2026) FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL/SYMPOSIUM JUDGE'S ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION must be filled out if taking an out-of-state symposium. The student's or judge's home state FSS or Credentials Chair MUST send this form to the chairman of the Course/Symposium to certify this Student's or Judge's eligibility to attend an out-of-state Flower Show School course or Symposium, and to receive credit. In addition, FS Judges would also complete the Good Standing Renewal Form for their level (forms 13-15). New York and Virginia are holding Symposiums in November 2026. Please visit

the NGC website <https://gardenclub.org/our-schools> for all school updates.

It's easy to find schools or courses to attend. If you need help with finding a course or determining your eligibility, contact your State Chairman or one of the CAR-SGC Schools Chairmen for help or information. We are happy to have our region well represented in the NGC Schools program. Let's grow and learn together!

Victoria Bellias,
CAR-SGC Schools Chairman

National Garden Week

In conjunction with the 250th Celebration of the United States of America and National Garden Week, June 7-13, 2026, The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood in Ridgewood, NJ planted red, white and blue flowers in the Van Neste Square gardens which they maintain.



Nancy Ricca and Barbara Masarky, Van Neste Committee Chairmen,
Barbara Ferrante

Cynthia Halaby, Leslie Kolvek, Maria Gilosa



The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood, New Jersey

If your club has pictures celebrating National Garden Week in 2026, please email along with a brief description of the project to jwarshauer@aol.com.

Jan Warshauer,
Chair, National Garden Week

Schools Being Held by NGC

Environmental School:

September 17 - 18, 2026. Derby, CT. Virtual. Course 1.

Contact: K. Fiorini, kristafiorini@ctgardenclubs.org

October 23 - 24, 2026. Sheboygan, WI. In-Person.

Course 4. Contact: Karen Merlau, kmerlau@tds.net

Nov. 2 - 3, 2026. Augusta, MI. In-Person. Course 4.

Contact: Beth Markowski,
bmarkowski@migardenclubs.org

Flower Show School:

August 16 - 19, 2026. Johns Creek, GA. Course 1.

Contact: Gale Thomas, Galedthomas@gmail.com

September 16 - 19, 2026. Greenville, SC. Course 1.

Contact: Susan Andrews, sjspurr@hotmail.com

October 26 - 28, 2026. Raleigh, NC. Course 1.

Contact: Connie Goodson, conniejog@gmail.com

February 01 - 04, 2027. Brandon, MS. Course 1.

Contact: Paula Howard, paulahoward59@gmail.com

August 24 - 27, 2026. Raleigh, NC. Course 2.

Contact: David Tuttle, dkuttlet@gmail.com

August 29 - Sept. 04, 2026. Milwaukee, WI. Course 2.

Contact: Lynne Ehnert, lehnert@wi.rr.com

August 24 - 27, 2026. Raleigh, NC. Course 2.

Contact: David Tuttle, dkuttlet@gmail.com

Sept. 04 - 17, 2026. Macon, GA. Course 2.

Contact: Annelle Moore, annellemoo@aol.com

January 26 - 29, 2027. Boca Raton, FL. Course 2.

Contact: Maggie Dunn, Mwdunn333@gmail.com

August 23 - 27, 2026. Richmond, VA. Course 3.

Contact: Val Story, valstory@aol.com

August 24 - 27, 2026. Little Rock, AR. Course 3.

Contact: Rose Knight, jkknight@suddenlink.net

October 26 - 29, 2026. Dallas, TX. Course 3.

Contact: Gina Woods, gina@tropicalsbygina.com

September 18 - 26, 2026. Valley Center, CA. Course 4.

Contact: Laura Crenshaw

October 06 - 08, 2026. Voorheesville, NY. Course 4.

Contact: Gail Berti, chiara215@aol.com

October 26 - 28, 2026. Gettysburg, PA. Course 4.

Contact: Evie Matzke, eviemat52@aol.com

Gardening School:

Sept. 15 - 16, 2026. Athens, GA, Virtual. Course 1

Contact: Gail Thomas,

Course 2. None Scheduled.

August 24-25, 2026. Westerville, OH. Virtual. Course 3.

Contact: Pat Rupiper, patrupiper@gmail.com

Sept. 21 - 22, 2026. New Haven, CT. Virtual. Course 3.

Contact: Cheryl Cappiali,
cherylcappiali@ctgardenclubs.org

Sept. 18 - 19, 2026. Sawyer, MI. In-Person. Course 4.

Contact: Michelle Armstrong,
marmstrong@migardenclubs.org

Landscape Design School:

October 27 - 28, 2026. Charleston, SC. Course 1.

Contact: Paul Gilson, pgilson@verizon.netB

October 28 - 30, 2026. Waltham, MA. Virtual. Course 1.

Contact: Susan MacPherson, pgilson@verizon.netB

August 25 - 26, 2026. Elizabethtown, KY. Course 2.

Contact: Debbie Skaggs, skaggs@scrtc.com

October 05 - 05, 2026. Raleigh, NC. Course 2.

Contact: Sandra Anastasio, slanastio@gmail.com

October 08 - 09, 2026. Traverse City, MI. Course 2.

Contact: Ronalee Polad, rpomad@migardenclubs.org

September 28 - 29, 2026. College Station, TX. Course 3.

Contact: Michele Wehrheim

September 28 - 29, 2026. Richmond, VA. Course 3.

Contact: Glenda Knowles

Course 4: None Scheduled

Multiple-Refreshers:

September 13 - 14, 2026. Kennett Square, PA.

Contact: Sharon Richardson,
sharonrichardson22@gmail.com

Symposiums:

August 12 - 13, 2026. Birmingham, AL.

Contact: DeLaine Spencer, delspen@aol.com

August 24 - 25, 2026. Gettysburg, PA.

Contact: Joane Bayliss, cjbfan@yahoo.com

August 31 - September 02, 2026. Berea, KY.

Contact: Susan Throneberry,
sthroneberry1@gmail.com

September 28 - 29, 2026. Galena, IL.

Contact: Deb Cowles-Zonca, debczonca@gmail.com

October 13 - 15, 2026. Houston, TX.

Contact: Regena Williamson,
jmaxinewells27@gmail.com

November 02 - 03, 2026. Roanoke, VA.

Contact: Dianna Busch,

November 03 - 04, 2026. Milford, MA.

Contact: Kathy Hawes, ycapella@comcast.net

November 04 - 05, 2026. Albany, NY.

Contact: Sue Trager, suzi.trager@gmail.com

November 11 - 13, 2026. Umatilla, FL.

Contact: Joanne Molinare, love2garden@gmail.com

