NEWSCAPE

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 new readers! You are a busy group with many schools, refreshers, and events. Please forward Newscape to your Consultants.

Please send me information about your projects, meetings and schools by August 1, 2020 for inclusion in our Fall 2020 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.

Caroline Carbaugh
Newscape Editor
NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CHAIRMAN:

Dear Consultants, Students, Garden Club Members and Schools Chairmen,

Thanks to all who are conducting or attending Landscape Design Schools (LDS) and any NGC Schools and Refreshers. There is so much worthwhile information to learn and share with others. I am happy that sixteen LDS courses are currently scheduled in 13 states as well as four Tri-Refreshers scheduled in four states, but I am sad that these numbers are lower than several of my previous reports in this publication. As you plan for the 2020-2021 garden club season, consider offering a Landscape Design School, a wonderful team education project that can be directed to the general public in addition to your own members.

Stewards of the Land is still being used as the official text for those school series that began prior to July 1, 2019. While the new curriculum applicable to school series beginning after last July 1 does not use an official text, Stewards remains a useful reference book and is available for purchase at NGC Member Services. Those schools finishing under the old curriculum should consider using one of the topics from the new curriculum as the supplemental subject in any course. All courses include one such special interest topic. I continue to suggest consideration of “Landscaping with Native Trees” and related topics as one of the supplemental subjects in any course. This supports the NGC initiative Plant America with Trees, encouraging the planting of native trees by or for each garden club member in each year of the current administration. I hope you have been reading about this program in The National Gardener (TNG) and Keeping in Touch (KIT). Each one (member) plant one (tree). Landscape Design Councils can engage Consultants by providing programs on this subject and sponsoring tree-planting activities.

Because of development of the new NGC website (coming in April or May) there had been a moratorium on posting or removing information from the website. Courses registered after November 1 were not posted until the moratorium ended in late January. Remember that school listings are no longer posted in TNG, but are now shown in KIT. TNG remains required reading for all NGC school students and Consultants even though new subscriptions are no longer available. TNG may be accessed online at the NGC website. Read the Landscape Design feature article included in most issues as well as official school news. Don’t forget to print the new ES, GS, LDS Guide for Students and Consultants to give to all attendees at all courses and refreshers.

Banners for California Schools

LD Consultants can refresh by attending any one course of a LDS or a single-subject LD refresher or a Multiple (Bi- or Tri) Refresher that includes Landscape Design. I know some Consultants do not like to refresh at a school course because they have already been exposed to that information. But remember that if you previously attended LDS under the old curriculum, you will be getting some new and different information if you refresh in a course using the new curriculum. And, in general, I have always found that if you have a different instructor or take a course in a different location or after a few years have passed you do get updated information and sometimes from a new perspective. I personally believe that refreshing in a school course is highly educational. That said, I have just refreshed in a Tri-Refresher offered in conjunction with the California Garden Clubs Winter Board Meeting on the Queen Mary in Long Beach. This was a great opportunity for twenty Consultants who are also board members and who had to be there anyway. But because there were two hours of required sessions each day for four days I don’t think this is the ideal format for Consultants who are not board members. Two sessions that especially focused on Landscape Design were “Enhancing Landscapes with an Art Full Perspective” and “Lessons in
Sustainability from Behind the Gates of a Japanese Garden.” Alexis Slafer, who is California’s LDS Chairman and an LDS Accrediting Chairman for NGC, chaired the Tri-Refresher and the Winter Board Meeting. Kudos to her for finding excellent speakers and providing an informative program.

Please help us help you administer your schools by using only the online fillable forms available in the current forms package posted on the NGC website. Use the ES, GS, LDS Handbook on the website, but do not try to fill out the forms in the Handbook. Submit your registrations (to me for LDS) at least three months prior to your event and submit the rest of your required information as early as possible after that. NGC’s Schools Committee Chairmen have been working to review, analyze and update some of the forms and to make some corrections and clarifications to information contained in the Handbook.

Finally, this chairman recently attended his district’s fundraiser bus tour to the Getty Villa in Pacific Palisades, California (also featured in a Tri-Refresher ten years ago). This is well worth a visit when you are in the area. J. Paul Getty wanted visitors to experience Greek and Roman art in a setting that would bring the subjects to life. The Villa which contains many galleries and four gardens, planted with plants native to the Mediterranean and known to have been cultivated by the ancient Romans, is modeled on the Roman Villa dei Papiri, a grand country residence on the Bay of Naples that was buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD. Architectural Record has praised the 1997 to 2006 renovation project as “a near miracle – a museum that elicits no smirks from the art world ... a masterful job ... crafting a sophisticated ensemble of buildings, plazas, and landscaping that finally provides a real home for a relic of another time and place.”

Photos at the Getty Villa, by Greg Pokorski

Greg Pokorski, NGC LD Schools Chairman

STATE NEWS

Connecticut

The Use of the Elements in Landscape Design - Line, Void and Texture

The CT Landscape Design Council, having just finished evaluating the landscape exhibits in the 2020 CT Flower and Garden Show, thought we would share how some of the exhibits used the elements: Line, Void and Texture to accomplish pleasing designs. Line is an essential element in defining void as can be seen in this landscape’s use of a gravel path bordered by lawn. It has a very calming and inviting effect juxtaposed to the beautiful beds.
Line can also make a statement as a dominant feature in a landscape, like the use of this cylindrical, barren tree in the center of this landscape. The use of texture in the plant material was superb!

The walls of heuchera and pansies provide an interesting texture and a nice vertical element.

In this same landscape, the logs provided texture and line to delineate their space.

In this landscape, the strong lines seen repeated throughout give energy and strength to this design. The voids are represented by the patio and the grass.

Photos by Sue Kelley, Susan Laursen and Lea Anne Moran

As always, we enjoy this fabulous show which provides us with an excellent opportunity to practice our critical thinking skills in evaluating landscapes.

Sue Kelley, CT LDC Publicity Chair and Susan Laursen, Chair CT Landscape Design Council

Maryland

In the spring of 2019, an idea was born. Council Chairs for Landscape Design, Environmental and Gardening Consultant Councils agreed to make a first-ever, unified trip to the newly created Delaware Botanic Gardens in Dagsboro, Delaware. Our trip took place on September 26, 2019. We planned on no more than 52 in attendance, due to tour size and of course, to allow room for all of the goodies. You need room for the goodies!

Tour day began with an absolutely beautiful morning - a great start to a great day. En route, attendees received goodie bags with tempting breakfast treats and water. After collecting travelers along the way, we arrived at our destination just after 11 a.m.

A Nest
Pink Muhly grass

Educational, inspirational and sustainable aptly describe the mission of the Delaware Botanic Gardens which covers 37 acres of meadow, woodland and wetland. Located on the peaceful Pepper Creek, the public gardens formally opened just a week before our tour. We strolled through the sunny meadow admiring the swaying grasses; my favorites are the pink muhly grasses and native wildflowers designed by the renowned Piet Oudolf. We ambled along the woodland path bordering Pepper Creek surrounded by towering black cherry, sassafras and tupelo trees. A stunning focus were the giant birds’ nests, crafted by volunteers. Actually - more people’s nests, than birds’ nests.

We also clambered over a “ruin” which retained some of the original farmhouse structure. In addition, the gardens are home to a collection of hollies, more than 120 cultivars, donated by Charles Anderson, a long-time, active member of the Holly Society of America. The collection includes both evergreen and deciduous varieties. It’s a worthwhile addition to these gardens.

We further enjoyed our “Eastern Shore” lunch at a local restaurant on the Choptank River with an opportunity to participate in a trivia game targeted on what we learned on our tour. Prizes were awarded to those who answered correctly. For the early evening ride home, a little wine and chocolates were just what we needed for a little relaxation. Ah, such a nice day.

On another note, the Landscape Design School is back! Linda Harris, our eager Landscape Design School Chairman, has organized Course I. A terrific line up of instructors. This will be held at the Vollmer Center on October 13-15, 2020. (Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209).

Dottie DeMarr, Chair 
MD Landscape Design Council

Montana

Montana is having Landscape Design School Course 1 on May 8 & 9 in Billings Montana. This is our first in quite a while so we are excited!

Joyce Hendricks, Chair 
MT Landscape Design Council

National Capital Area

In the winter of 2018, the National Capital Area LDC Board developed a project to further LDC’s purpose and to attract new members. The consensus was that most members were not physically able to engage in a landscape project themselves, but with Council funds could support a grant program. This grant project would publicize the Council’s promotion of good landscaping practices as a resource to clubs, provide encouragement and assistance to clubs planning NCAGC activities concerning landscape design, and
attract students to LD Schools and school participants to the Council.

This NCA project was modeled after the NGC Plant America Project with the same maximum award of $1,000. The Chairman had served two years on NGC’s Plant America Committee and learned from that grant’s successes and failures. Only National Capital Area Garden Clubs were eligible and previous winners of Plant America Grants were ineligible. The main differences between the LDC program and Plant America were the inclusion of planned maintenance and the inclusion of “before” and “after” photos.

The ten applications were evaluated independently by the three Committee members and the top five were chosen from 3 of the 4 districts in the NCA. All projects were gardens, all very visible to the public (one of the application criteria); 2 were restorations, 2 new gardens and 1 a combination of both. The emphasis (whenever possible) was on native plants and those attracting beneficial pollinators.

The applicants covered a diversity of conditions and locations:

- Full sun vs. nearly full shade
- Grassy median strip vs. well-worked, long-planted garden
- Edge of well-traveled surface road vs. area bordered by sidewalk and large buildings
- Pliable soil vs. clay with buried construction material forcing replacement
- Flat surface vs. steep slope ending in dry stream bed (occasional flooding)
- Area with no nearby means of irrigation vs. over-watering from commercial sprinklers

Most of the clubs collaborated with neighborhood organizations as partners that provided labor in demolition and cleanup, provided discount plant material, mulch, etc., and supplemented the project with donations. Signage at the garden locations documented the club presence and, in one case, gave credit to their partners and to the LDC.

The timing of the grant project was designed so that clubs could work over the spring, summer and early fall. The Grant Committee visited every project and compared each application to that project’s final report. All projects scored high on impact, benefit and public visibility. Generally, 20 - 65% of club members worked in some way on the project.

The club projects included:

- removal of dead trees, vines, and invasive plants between the Freeman Store and the W&OD Trail in Vienna, VA and planting, with trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs, including many native species.
• renovation and restoration of a 40’ square woodland garden at the entrance to INOVA-Alexandria Hospital, incorporating native plants.
• preparation for and planting with pollinator friendly material along the service road at the entrance to the club’s development. The garden is very visible as it is adjacent to Little River Turnpike in Annandale, VA.
• preparation and planting of a 75’ x 14’ median at the entrance to the club’s community. Plant material included deer resistant, drought tolerant, pollinator attracting natives.
• restoration of a public area by clearing a corner garden of dead trees and overgrowth and the planting of new shrubs and trees. Their $1,000 grant was increased by $2,000 through donations from the local Citizens Association and a generous neighbor.

Since all gardens are easily accessible to the public, LDC members were encouraged to visit them this spring/summer.

Ellen M. Spencer, Chairman
LDC Community Project Grant Committee

Pennsylvania

Millersville University

On July 30, 2019, Pennsylvania Central Area Landscape Design Council visited Millersville University to tour the Zero Energy Lombardo Welcome Center located in Millersville, PA. What a learning experience we had!

This building usually produces more energy than it uses, feeding it back to the other MU buildings and is the third most efficient “zero energy building” out of the 100 in the US. It uses stationary solar panels installed in a ripple pattern on the roof, a rotating array containing six panels that follow the sun, black solar collecting glass on the back wall, baffles that allow different amounts of sunshine into the office windows depending on the season, and 20 geothermal wells that are 400 feet deep that help cool the building. It has multiple electrical meters that track usage in zones throughout the building that can pinpoint a problem quickly. They use many sustainability practices.

The massive rain chain behind the planter is made of very heavy rebar and decorated with metal leaves. The rain chain and perforated roof drain directly into one of the three rain gardens in the building.

Melanie Markowski contributed to this article and took the photos.

Joyce Crider,
GCFP Landscape Design Council

Brandywine River Museum

On a crisp winter day in December, the Brandywine River Museum in Chadd’s Ford, PA, provided a lovely setting for the installation of new officers of the
Central Area Landscape Design Council of PA. Officers were installed after lunch at the Millstone Café, located on the first floor of the museum. There was time to explore the three floors of artwork and, of course, to visit the gift shop.

The museum is acclaimed for its extensive collection of works by the Wyeth family including grandfather N.C., father Andrew, and son Jamie. Housed in a renovated 19th century grist mill located along the banks of the Brandywine River, the museum has a window wall which overlooks the river and the surrounding naturalized landscape of native plants. The landscape outdoors, with its black and brown color scheme of leafless trees, mirrored the earth tones in many of the Wyeth paintings. The trees inside the museum, however, were the ones which caught our attention.

Traditionally at Christmas time, the museum is filled with live evergreen trees decorated with hundreds of “critters” of all types, all created by numerous talented volunteers. The “critters” are crafted solely from dried plant materials. Cones, nuts, berries, bark, and twigs are turned into dogs, cats, mice, porcupines, deer, and other delightful animal ornaments. A squirrel on skis, three blind mice on a raft, a tiny bunny in a milkweed cradle … all nestle into the branches of one tree. We usually think of whole, living plants in an outdoor environment. Our visit to Brandywine River Museum showed us plants in a different light: they bring us joy even when they are no longer living.

Vivian Abel, Chair
GCFP, Landscape Design Schools

South Carolina

South Carolina is blessed with a wide variety of differing eco-systems, from the mountains, to the sandhills, to the seashore. It is the aim of LDCC of SC to travel to different parts of the state for our programs to learn more about the landscapes in each of these unique areas.

For our general meeting in September 2019, members of LDCC of South Carolina visited a two acre garden in the upstate that was terraced on a steep hillside down to the shores of Saluda Lake. The landscape was filled with an unusual variety of under-story woodland plantings that were unknown to those of us living in the Low Country. The owners of this property also maintain a separate portion of the garden dedicated to bamboo that includes an unusual black bamboo.

In November 2019, our study club traveled to Eutawville, South Carolina to serve as consultants for a home owner who had recently purchased a property that had been abandoned for years. Our program was entitled “A Work in Progress”. The property was overgrown with pine saplings and a variety of wild vines that had completely obliterated the house from the street view. The new owner hopes eventually to turn the property into an event venue for weddings and parties. The house itself is a 1938 replica of Mt. Vernon, and the landscape plantings date from the same period. Old Camellias and Sasanquas tower to two stories in height and the home owner wanted help in identifying plant materials worth saving before a bulldozer leveled any more of the tangled jungle. One of our members provided us with an on-site tutorial on air layering camellias. The home owner was also open to suggestions for a new landscape design for the entire property, so we were pleased to be able to use...
some of the information we had learned in Landscape Design School and offer some suggestions. This may be an ongoing project.

On January 13-14, 2020, we had 70 students attend Landscape Design School Series 17 Course I at Charles Towne Landing and we welcomed four new members to LDCC of SC.

Karen Prewitt, President
LDCC of South Carolina

Virginia

Fall: Members of the Virginia Landscape Design Consultants Council (VLDCC) enjoyed a lovely October day in the garden. The group had a private tour of the Virginia House Gardens in Richmond. The site is closed to the public but available for special events and weddings. The day turned out to be both a landscape and history lesson for those who attended.

Talk about a recycling project – the Virginia House was constructed from recycled materials. Originally built as Warwick Priory in England in the 16th century, the limestone, windows and materials were shipped to Richmond for the construction of the Weddell Home in 1927. When the home was complete, the Weddells hired renowned landscape designer Charles Gillette to design the gardens.

While working at a large landscape design firm in Boston, Gillette was assigned to oversee the company’s work at a newly built college, now the University of Richmond. He met many people in the area and soon began designing notable gardens such as Virginia House and Agecroft Hall, creating a regional style of gardens that later became known as the “Virginia Garden.” He created more than 2,500 design projects in his 56 year career.

Spring: The group’s spring plans include an April private tour of Morven in Charlottesville. The land was
originally purchased by Thomas Jefferson for his private secretary, Colonel William Short. The house and property passed through several owners before it was purchased by John Kluge in 1988. Kluge installed a four-acre Japanese garden and house. The property also features a formal garden designed by noted Landscape Architect Annette Hoyt Flanders, who won the New York Medal of Honor in Landscape Architecture in 1932 for her work on the McCann Estate French Gardens in New York. Today Morven is a special events center, owned by the University of Virginia Foundation, a generous gift from John Kluge.

While in Charlottesville, the group will also see the future site of McIntire Botanical Garden, a planned 8.5 acre site with an award-winning Master Plan. The American Society of Landscape Architects honored internationally renowned Mikyoung Kim of Boston, and Charlottesville’s Waterstreet Studio for analysis and design.

**Washington**

On October 10, 2019, the Washington Consultants Council toured the PowellsWood garden in Federal Way, Washington. This garden surrounds a former home and includes many garden rooms. It also features some tropical plants like banana trees. The admission fee is $7 which is reciprocal with some other gardens in Washington state.

For many years, the soil was built with thick layers of mulch. By building the soil, it can now support many diverse plants. The banana trees are purchased each year and grow huge rapidly while other tropical plants and Northwest plants fill the border. Because this garden is near water, the climate is moderated to accept some tropical plants.

This garden also supports a forest with a viewing platform. The forest is comprised of Northwest Natives and these are enhanced with an enormous display of fuchsias during the late summer. We could see woodpecker holes in some of the tree trunks. The forest area includes many fern varieties and deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs.

**Fundraising:** “VLDCC is in the process of raising $700 for grant projects for public spaces,” announced Susan Gaskill, President. They are rapidly selling $1 butterfly garden seed packs at garden clubs and district meetings.

**Photos of Gillette Garden by Donna Cottingham**

**Donna Cottingham, Landscape Design Council of VA**

**Photos by Al Finegold**

**Lana Finegold, Pacific Region LDS Chairman**
Wisconsin

Tri Refresher at
Boerner Gardens, Milwaukee Wisconsin

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation is looking forward to welcoming all of you to the Pre-convention Tri-Refresher being held at Boerner Botanical Gardens May 11, 2020.

We have an exciting day planned for you. Will Radler, the developer of the famous Knockout roses will open the day. We will hear about Freshwater ecology of the Great Lakes and how Milwaukee handles their water treatment.

During lunch Shirley Walczak, Director of Boerner Garden will give us a talk on the history and development of Whitnall Park and Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Nancy Aten will speak on Jens Jensen, a famous Midwest Landscape Architect known for the humanizing power of parks. He was named “The Dean of American Landscape Architecture” by the New York Times. Nancy is an expert on Jens Jensen and is the consulting landscape architect for The Clearing in Ellison Bay, Wisconsin, considered by many to be Jensen’s masterpiece.

A tour of the Gardens will follow and finish with some time to browse the gift shop

We hope you will join us.

Gretchen Vest, Chair
WGCF Landscape Design

Photos from Boerner Gardens

Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden,
Cape Town, South Africa
Photos by Caroline Carbaugh
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PLEASE consult our website
for the latest information on
schools and refreshers:
www.gardenclub.org

Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden,
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