

CAR Review



Monica Hansen, Director



From Our Director:

Theme: TOGETHER WE'LL PLANT AMERICA FOR A CLEANER, GREENER AND HEALTHIER WORLD!

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State, Inc.: Donna Sessa
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Jiminy Crickets I can't believe how quickly these past two years have flown by. It has been such an honor and privilege to have been your Region Director, and I have loved every minute of it. I had so many more things that I had hoped to accomplish but..... I strongly believe in our Members and am so pleased to see everyone working together and sharing thoughts and ideas. We need to continue to listen to each other and continue to strengthen and grow our garden clubs. The friendships we make as members of our Region are wonderful.

I remember one of our sons came home one day while I was our FGCNYS State President and noticed an AAA envelope on the table in the hall. He asked me why I bothered with an AAA card as with all the friends I had made as our State President, surely if I had an issue with my car while I was travelling somewhere, I would know someone I could call. I started laughing thinking that, yes, I could probably call and pop in for a chat and cup of tea or coffee but doubt that many of them would be able to help me change a flat tire! Now I'm just so blessed with so many more friends that I've gotten to know in our Region.

I would like to thank Vikki Bellias for her support as our Alternate Director along with all of you who serve on our Region's Board of Directors. The time and energy you have given to our Region has been phenomenal.

Please share our CAR Review with your Membership. Our Editor, Caroline Carbaugh, has done a fabulous job putting our publications together for us and they always have wonderful articles from our members. I certainly understand how involved and focused we all become in our own backyards, yet in many cases we become so

wrapped up in what we are doing that we forget the bigger picture. Having common goals and objectives is what will tie us together. We will all be stronger if we continue to work closely together and in uniform with all our goals and objectives.

And don't worry, I still have that AAA Membership so if I do call, it will be to stop by for a chat, not to ask you to help me change a tire!

Again, thank you for your trust in me and for sharing a wonderful two years with each other.

Monica Hansen,
CAR-SGC Region Director 2023-2025



Sunday, October 19 Registration

**Monday, October 20 through
Wednesday, October 22**

- Registration, Vendors, Committee Meetings, Board Meeting, Lunch and Program Followed by Seminars and Speakers
- Cocktails, Dinner, and Design Program

Tuesday, October 21

- Vendors and Conference Breakfast
- Conference Meeting, Lunch and Program followed by seminars
- Cocktails, Dinner, Awards and Program

Tri-Refresher Required Seminars & Speakers (Monday & Tuesday)

- ***Creating A Water-Smart Landscape*** – Kathy Jentz
- ***High Tide in Dorchester*** – Documentary film by The Bay Journal
- ***The Hows and Wows of Longwood Gardens*** – Jim Sutton
- ***Layers of the Forest*** – Sylvan Kaufman
- ***New Growing Trends for Future Landscapes*** – Kirk Brown

Wednesday, October 22 –Tri-Refresher Required Bus Tour – open to all

- Vineyard & Winery Tour
- University of MD Center for Environmental Science – UMCES – Observation of oyster restoration project with staggered tours of Horn Point Laboratory, and an introductory video in their amphitheater.
- Blackwater Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center - Welcome remarks with Park Staff, visit pollinator garden, a bus tour route along “Wildlife Drive” to observe waterfowl, shorebirds, turtles, bald eagles, osprey, and migratory birds, as well as forest, and marshes all with a tour interpretation.

From Our States:

Delaware



Ginny Cardona

President, Brenda Moore who installed officers for the 2025-2027 term. Many of our clubs are not aware of all that National Garden Clubs has to offer and a record attendance was inspired by "Fifty Shades of Green."

Spring has come to Delaware. I am glad to finally see a little green. Our clubs are out in force with plantings, plant sales and garden tours.

Our special guest at the April 16, 2025, meeting was National Garden Clubs, Inc.



National Garden Clubs President Brenda Moore

Photo by Ruth Boggs

Our April speaker, Anna O'Kelly, provided us with tips and tricks while entertaining us with her stunning designs. We are inspired and ready for the June 18 State Flower Show.

**Design by
Anna O'Kelly**



Delaware's first Specialty Design Flower Show in many years has our Judges' Council working overtime. Our "Summer Road Trip" will be the highlight of the June 18 State meeting. This comes on the heels of the June 4 and June 11 flower shows of Brandywine and Garden Gate Garden Clubs.

As the garden club year comes to a close, our clubs are looking ahead. Most clubs are electing new officers and planning next year's projects. The DFGC's 2025-2027 Board has planned speakers and venues and lined up host clubs for the three state meetings. They are ready to hit the ground running.



Photos by Pat Minnigh

**Ginny Cardona, President,
Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

It has been a pleasure to serve as the DFGC President these past two years. While we haven't been able to do everything on the wish list, we have accomplished all our goals and then some.

Maryland



Donna Miller

Our members are ready to spring into Spring! Many clubs are electing new officers and that includes a change of State officers. Our March Annual meeting was held March 25 and NGC President, Brenda Moore, installed the new State officers. Attendees enjoyed a presentation featuring Ron McIntosh titled "The Exciting New World of Houseplants." The following weekend we participated in the Cylburn in Spring: A Community Fair event held at the Vollmer Center. Our booth was filled with exhibits about our President's Project, schools, scholarships, Blue/Gold Star markers, etc.

Hundreds of people from the community attended and gained knowledge of who we are and what we do. A special Earth Day event occurred on April 24 at the Vollmer Center which featured three exceptional speakers. Presentation topics were: "Ecological Landscaping for a Climate-Resilient Watershed"; "Beauty, Biodiversity, and Resilience"; and "Protecting Pollinators and Beneficial Insects in a Changing Climate."



**NGC President Brenda Moore installs officers
At the Community Spring Fair**

Several upcoming events are already on the calendar. Landscape Design School Course I is scheduled for May 7-8; only a few spots are available. From the Eastern Shore to the Western Mountains garden tours, plant sales, seed swaps and flower shows are filling our calendar. Many of us are looking forward to attending the NGC Convention May 18-21 in South Charleston, SC.



Photo by Christina Nutile

Lastly, mark your calendars for the CAR-SGC Annual Conference and Tri-Refresher October 19-22 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge MD, a stunning location.

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

National Capital Area



Barb Kiker
The National Capital Area celebrated our talented clubs' achievements and anniversaries at our Spring Meeting, April 8th. Our program featured the author, Diana Parsell who spoke about her book, *Eliza Scidmore: The Trailblazing Journalist Behind Washington's Cherry Trees*. We highly recommend her to speak at garden club events.

The National Capital Area celebrated our talented clubs' achievements and anniversaries at our Spring Meeting, April 8th. Our program featured the author, Diana Parsell who spoke about her book, *Eliza Scidmore: The Trailblazing Journalist Behind Washington's Cherry Trees*. We highly recommend her to speak at garden club events.



Awards, Awards, Awards to our talented clubs! So many great projects were described by 2nd VP Anne Dremluk.



**The Perennial Bloom winner,
Potomac Village GC member,
Margaret Vogel.**

**The Award of Honor recipient,
Nancy Moats,
Ayr Hill GC**



The next administration is ready to go! Congratulations to them all!

Our officers for 2025-2027 are:

President Elect - Danielle Brabazon
First Vice President - Joyce Skoglund
Second Vice President - Monica Anshel
Treasurer - Elizabeth Keyes
Assistant Treasurer - Janet Hazelbaker
Recording Secretary - Cheryl Cass

It has been a great honor to serve as your National Capital Area President. Thank you to my Board. Thank you to all our members!

**Barb Kiker, President,
National Capital Area Garden Clubs**

New Jersey

On May 13-14, 2025, the GCNJ welcomes incoming NGC President Donna Donnelly and current CAR Director Monica Hansen to our Kick Off Dinner along with the next day's celebration of our 100th Anniversary in conjunction with our Annual Meeting. The festivities start on the 13th with a **Beverly Kazickas** 'Welcome Dinner' at the historic Molly Pitcher Inn in Red Bank followed by the Annual Meeting and Anniversary held on the 14th at the beautiful Navesink Country Club overlooking the Navesink River. The event includes a Business Meeting with Committee Reports, Awards, Installation of new officers by Donna Donnelly, Program on the History of the GCNJ by speaker Kirk Brown, Raffle Baskets donated by our 8 districts and a buffet Luncheon. An exciting time for our members as I pass the gavel to incoming president Sue Berdahl. Along with these events, the GCNJ celebrates its 100 years by



publishing a beautiful 'cocktail table book' featuring the 100 garden clubs affiliated with our organization and our history that spans from 1925 to 2025.



GCNJ District IV host their Spring Meeting in Clinton



**GCNJ
President Beverly
Kazickas and
President elect Sue
Berdahl reflect on
the 2 years past and
the 2 years ahead**

**GCNJ Board
Members gather
after their April
Meeting**



**Photos by Judy
Bonnano and
Beverly
Kazickas**

**Beverly Kazickas, President,
Garden Club of New Jersey**

New York



Donna Sessa

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State held a successful NGC Flower Show School in April 2025 and look forward to holding Course 2 on October 6-8, 2025 in Voorheesville, NY. FGCNYS is committed to an educational plan that will increase public

awareness of our goals. One of the backbones of our organization is our Judges Councils. They remain relatively consistent through different administrations, steadily encouraging new designers and sharing horticultural interests among all members. They are a great resource for clubs. We need to nurture the enthusiasm of new judges and we need to have flower shows. Flower shows bring everyone together. They foster creativity of design and showcase the beauty of nature, while promoting the club and its interests among the community.



Enthusiastic students studying late evening in the hotel dining room



NGC Flower Show Schools Chair and NGC Design Instructor Judy Binns discussing American Traditional Designs at Cornell Cooperative Center- Albany County

Flower Show School stimulates new ideas. It provides an opportunity to learn about awards, to explore the different types of shows you can have, and to understand what is needed to produce a show. There are new kinds of flower shows with something to pique everyone's imagination. You don't have to become judge to attend. Haven't had a show in a while? Send someone to school to learn. (Many of our clubs sponsor students through their education budgets.) Flower shows provide a chance for clubs to advertise its other community activities, like: youth seed sowing workshops, native plant sales, clean-up a park campaigns, or environmental

awareness seminars. Create interest and you will get new members!

All in all, the process and the outcome of putting on a flower show school is not so different from that of a flower show. For this school, the result of the generosity of members across the state contributing their time and assistance, the knowledge of inspiring instructors, and the enthusiasm of prospective judges and attendees culminated in a renewed spirit and energy. FGCNYS is planning on building on that energy!



Helderview and Guilderland Garden Clubs' warm welcome and friendly faces put everyone at ease

Donna Sessa, President, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State

Ohio



Kathy Wagner

Spring is finally here and we here in Ohio are anxious to get started in our gardens. I always like to plan ahead with new plantings, which I try to do every year, keeping with my president's theme "Lets Garden with Ohio Natives".

Every year in the Dayton Ohio area we look forward to viewing the famous Daffodil House, it is one of many gardening attractions in our area. You know spring is here!!!



The Garden Club of Ohio and The Ohio Judges Council presents the 56th OJC Symposium April 29 and 30, being held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Mansfield. Our next event is our District Meetings in May which are always a fun time.

Our convention will take place on June 17-19, and will be held in Canton, Our theme this year is Team Ohio. We have some exciting things planned.

We are proud to award scholarships to 10 recipients this year for a total of \$75,000. These deserving students are in fields of study, Horticulture, Agriculture, Landscape Design, etc. We were also able to forward some applications to C.A.R. and NGC.

I am very proud of all the accomplishments of our clubs and truly have enjoyed every aspect of my presidency during the last two years, it has been an honor to serve as Garden Club of Ohio President. Thank you to my wonderful Board of Directors whose time and efforts will not be forgotten.

**Kathy Wagner, President,
Garden Club of Ohio**

Pennsylvania



Patricia Wolanski

This President was recently installed at the GCFP State Convention April 6-8 in Valley Forge. Themed, “A Gardening Revolution”, the convention was a reminder of all that we can accomplish together -- a true celebration and a very special memory for me.

My theme, “Plant America”: Pennsylvania Celebrates Nature and Embraces the Future” is more than a theme - it is an invitation to honor Pennsylvania’s past while addressing the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. Our goal is to make GCFP a household name across Pennsylvania by bringing the work of our federation into the public eye.

Pennsylvania is proud to celebrate its rich natural heritage while launching new initiatives that inspire connection, creativity, and growth. Guided by the theme, our work honors the beauty of our state and the spirit of our members.

We are introducing “GCFP Reads”, a statewide initiative encouraging clubs to explore nature and garden-focused books. Designed for both adults and youth, the program promotes learning and conversation across all 10 districts, building community through shared stories.

To nurture the next generation, we are establishing a “Sprouts and Seedlings” program for clubs to form GCFP youth garden clubs. With a little encouragement (and a few seed packets), we are inspiring curiosity and stewardship that will last a lifetime.

Our new “Floral Design and Horticulture” webinars are set for May 6th, August 5th and November 4th. These engaging, educational sessions offer inspiration and practical knowledge, helping us all grow in skill and confidence.

With the new Healing Art Program, we are bringing beauty where it is needed most. Clubs are encouraged to donate garden-themed artwork or

photography to hospitals, clinics, and care centers. A single image of a sunflower or forest path can bring comfort and calm – a gift to those on the mend.

And there's more! We are inviting clubs to roll up their sleeves and create Theme Gardens – pollinator, sensory, herb, vegetable and beyond. These spaces will showcase what happens when creativity meets purpose and plants meet people.

Looking ahead Mark your calendars for June 2026! Our statewide garden tour will highlight the incredible work of clubs across Pennsylvania, blooming with inspiration from the *Plant America* initiative.

Even more exciting, we are planning to publish a book celebrating Pennsylvania's public gardens and arboreta – a lasting tribute to the green spaces that enrich our mission.

What a time to be a gardener in Pennsylvania -- Together, we are planting hope, cultivating beauty, and building a legacy. After all, we are not just celebrating our Keystone State ----

We are making our Keystone a Gemstone!

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

Vision of Beauty Calendar



Spring is finally peaking at us. Daffodils, tulips, flowering trees. Love to see the arrival of vibrant colors after the long winter.

You may want to consider taking a photograph of your spring garden to submit for consideration as an entry in the NGC Vision Of Beauty calendar.

Please photograph notable floral design(s) you have created for yourself/flower show/gift/or whatever and submit the picture to be considered for inclusion in the NGC Vision of Beauty Calendar.

Challenge yourself. Take a picture, and submit your photo!!!!

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. If your design was entered in a flower show, do not include any flower show ribbons or entry cards in the image taken.

Complete entry information is 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**

Only Stop in North America

For the tiny birds known as “rufa red knots”, the single stop at the Delaware beach along their 9,000 journey isn't just a resting point. It's a matter of survival. His wings are exhausted, and he's nearly starving. Now he's finally about to make his only stop in North America, to rest and gather strength so he can complete the rest of his journey, But as he soars down toward the beach for his desperately needed recovery, something is terribly wrong. A red knot called “Moonbird” who's logged so many miles from the tip of South America to the Canadian Arctic that it's the equivalent of flying all the way to the moon! But as his food sources disappear and the climate emergency changes coastal habitat, the haven Moonbird needs to regain his strength is disappearing Without it, there's no way that red knots like him can complete their journey. For thousands of years, the bays and beaches of Delaware have provided a acritical rest stop that red knots like Moonbird need to complete their marathon migration from the very southern tip of Argentina all the way up and along the Eastern Seaboard. That's because the Delaware Bay is home to the world's largest spawning ground for the eggs that Moonbird desperately needs to regain his strength. But the fact is the beaches where horse-shoe crabs lay their eggs are disappearing fast. That's why The Nature Conservancy is on the ground

in Delaware, restoring marshes and reforesting hundreds of acres of land at the Milford Neck Preserve. The red knots found in Delaware are truly international so all the critical habitats must be saved and protected from the south to the north. A world without red knots (or panthers or sea turtles or the habitats that sustain us all- that's no -legacy to leave future generations.

-taken from "The Nature Conservancy" - March 2025

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

A Sense of the Season

This year pollen levels are predicted to be higher across the country than their historical average and they are only predicted to get worse in the years to come due to climate change.

Many of us suffer from seasonal allergies caused by pollen but research is showing that thunderstorms play a role in exacerbating some of these symptoms. The theory is that cold air downdrafts which occur during thunderstorms generate strong crosswinds that blow at ground level. This whips up pollen grains and fungal spores which get carried high in the storm system by updrafts. The moisture in the clouds causes them to swell then break into even smaller fragments and eventually the pollen particles are carried back down by cold downdrafts. According to studies, the pollen levels are higher during the first 20 minutes of a thunderstorm.

On the subject of thunderstorms, one of the summer's most refreshing sensations is to step outside to feel the cooler air as a storm rolls by especially after humid weather. As fat raindrops hit the earth, a scent called "petrichor" is produced, an earthy smell that both humans and animals find particularly exhilarating. The term comes from the Greek word Petra meaning stone and "ichor" the fluid that was said to flow through the veins of the gods.

*Anne Johnston,
Air Quality & Water Conservation*



Bleeding Heart

***Photo by
Caroline Carbaugh***

Schools Being Held by NGC

Environmental School:

Sept. 18 - 19, 2025. Derby, CT. Zoom – Course 4.

Contact: Viginia Casanova, Ginny.Casanova@ctgardenclubs.org

Sept. 26 - 27, 2025. Sheboygan, WI. In-Person – Course 3. Contact: Karen Merlau, kmerlau@tds.net.

Flower Show School:

April 28 - 20, 2025. Gettysburg, PA – Course 1 –

Contact: Evie Matzke, eviemat52@aol.com

July 20 – 23, 2025. Memphis, TN – Course 1 -

Contact: Mary Heim, juliedyerwilson@gmail.com

August 18 – 21, 2025. Roanoke, VA – Course 1 -

Contact: Val Story, valstory@aol.com.

August 25 – 28, 2025. Little Rock, AR – Course 1 -

Contact: Rose Knight, valstory@aol.com

October 20 – 22, 2025. Gettysburg, PA – Course 2 –

Contact: Evie Matzke, eviemat52@aol.com.

June 10 – 12, 2025, East Brunswick, NJ – Course 3 -

Contact: Gail Bassolino, cbassolino@aol.com

April 27 -29, 2026. Gettysburg, PA – Course 3 –

Contact: Evie Matzke, eviemat52@aol.com.

June 2 – 4, 2026. Franklin, TN – Course 4 -

Contact: Lori Emery

Oct. 26 - 28, 2026. Gettysburg, PA – Course 4 –

Contact: Evie Matzke, eviemat52@aol.com.

Flower Show Symposium:

April 29 – 30, 2025. Basking Ridge, NJ. Contact:

Gail Bassolino, cbassolino@aol.com.

April 29 – 30, 2025. Mansfield, OH. Contact:

Winnie Garabis, wgarabis@yahoo.com.

August 6 – 7, 2025. Birmingham, AL. Contact: Delaine

Spencer, delspen@aol.com.

August 19 – 20, 2025. Columbia, MO. Contact:

Karen Blackmore, karen@kewpie.net.

October 27 – 28, 2025. Elkhart Lake, WI. Contact: Liz

Murken, lizmurken@gmail.com.

Gardening School:

July 10 -11, 2025. Encino, CA – In-Person – Course 1.
 Contact: Robin Pokorski, CGCIRobin@gmail.com.
 Aug. 14 - 15, 2025. Encino, CA – In-Person – Course 2.
 Contact: Robin Pokorski, CGCIRobin@gmail.com.
 June 11 – 12, 2025. Spartanburg, SC – In-Person –
 Course 3. Contact: Karen Allen, saludalake21@aol
 Sept.. 25 - 26, 2025. Encino, CA – In-Person – Course 3.
 Contact: Robin Pokorski, CGCIRobin@gmail.com.
 Sept. 29 – Oct. 1. New Smyrna Beach, FL – In-Person –
 Course 3. Contact: Sally Flanagan, sfflan@aol.com
 Aug. 26 – 27, 2025. Abbeville, LA – In-Person - Course 4.
 Contact: Roxanna Champagne, roxannachamp@cox.net
 Oct. 23 - 24, 2025. Encino, CA – In-Person – Course 4.
 Contact: Robin Pokorski, CGCIRobin@gmail.com.

Landscape Design School:

May 7 – 8, 2025. Columbia, MD. In-Person – Course 1.
 Contact: Linda Harris, lindaharris355@aol.com
 August 26 – 27, 2025. Elizabethtown, KY – In-Person.
 Course 1. Contact: Debbie Skaggs,
skaggs@scrtc.com.
 May 14 – 15, 2025. Lansing, MI – In-Person – Course 3.
 Contact: Ronalee Polad, rpolad@migardenclubs.org
 Nov. 11 – 12, 2025. Charleston, SC – In-Person – Course
 4. Contact: Paul Gilson, pgilson@verizon.net

Tri-Refreshers:

June 1 - 3, 2025. Gainesville, FL. Contact: Carol Binello,
carolannbinello@gmail.com

**Spring Blooming Trees
and Flowers**



Dogwood



Columbine



Viburnum



Lilac

**Photos by
Caroline
Carbaugh**

