

CAR Review



Beverly Kazickas, Director



From Our Director:

Theme: Gardening for a Healthy Mind, Body and Soul

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As the long days of summer draw to a close, I am filled with both gratitude and excitement to write to you for the first time as your new Director. I want to begin by saying how proud I am to serve the CAR-SGC while representing my home state of New Jersey. It is an honor to be a part of this remarkable community of gardeners and nature lovers. Our organization is made up of a tapestry of talent and passion from the 7 'states' throughout the region, and I feel truly fortunate to step into the role of Director working with you to build on the traditions and successes that have made our garden clubs flourish over the years.

At the National Garden Club's 2025 Annual Convention held in Charleston we had a terrific turnout of attendees from our CAR-SGC clubs. It was a pleasure being with so many of you and sharing my installation on May 22, 2025, as your new Director. We also saw the induction of the National Garden Club's new President, Donna Donnelly. This summer was a time of transition from outgoing administrations to new. Thank you to former CAR Director Monica Hansen for her dedicated leadership over the past 2 years. Also, many thanks to the Board members who served in the past and have agreed to continue for another term; plus, we welcome a dozen new members to the Board ... I'm eager to work alongside all of you.

Summer vacation brought us long periods of intense heat, sudden storms, and high humidity. With upcoming cooler weather, we find the opportunity to catch up on paperwork and projects that were put aside for some well-earned rest and relaxation. With this in mind, our CAR Committee Chairs are busy tweaking and fine tuning their upcoming responsibilities ... updated rules and due dates for Awards were emailed to State Presidents, a new password will be issued for the Members Only Section of the CAR Website after the 2025-2027 information is added to the site, and the 2025 CAR-SGC Annual Conference is in the works.

Looking ahead, the fall Conference will be held October 19-22, 2025, on the historic Eastern Shore in Cambridge, Maryland and hosted by The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland. Co-chairs Susie Middleton and Diana Bonner are hard at work organizing their team to produce an outstanding event which will include 8 top notch speakers, a tri-refresher, plus much more. Registration is open and filling up quickly. We hope to see you there!

I look forward to the journey ahead. Together, during the next 2 years, let us cultivate not only our gardens but also the fellowship, learning and inspiration that makes the CAR-SGC so special.

Beverly Kazickas,
CAR-SGC Region Director 2025-2027



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

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Our Incoming CAR-SGC State Presidents: Debra Turner, Danielle Brabazon, Sue Berhdahl, Alva Hutichson, Beverly Kazickas, Donna Miller, Elizabeth Walker, Pat Wolanski

Where can you see 8 great presentations in just 48 hours?
Where can you network with gardeners from 7 states?
**At the October 20 - 21, 2025
CAR-SGC Conference & Tri-Refresher**



The event is open to all garden club members; you can attend the full two days, a single day, or just the lunch or dinner program(s).

- **Speakers** — Our programming showcases top-notch presentations on the joy of gardening, environmental stewardship, the new planting zones, creating water-smart landscapes, the layers of the forest, innovative designs and more
- **Vendors** — We've lined up a great variety of vendors for items to add to your garden, house and wardrobe.
- **Bring a partner** — There is plenty to see locally, including the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, Harriet Tubman Museum, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Laytons Chance Vineyard and more
- **Make it a mini vacation** — The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay location is a 342-acre waterfront resort and spa near Cambridge, Maryland. The facility includes an 18-hole Golf Course, full-service Spa, indoor pool and tennis court.

To learn more and register, click on. <https://www.car-sgc.org/> or scan this QR code



SCAN ME

From Our States:

Delaware



Alva Hutchison

PLANT AMERICA: CULTIVATE
Loveliness is our theme. As gardeners, we understand **CULTIVATE** as a gardening term. The definition also includes to GROW, PREPARE, ENCOURAGE, CONNECT... all words that apply to Garden Clubs. Cultivate

describes what we will do together to build out this vision to "CULTIVATE."

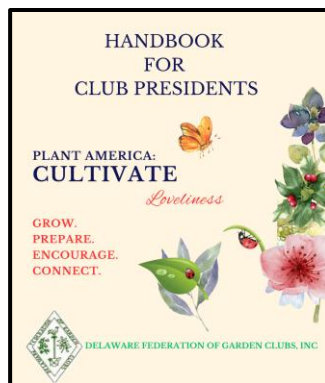
Loveliness is the word for a group of ladybugs. Ladybugs became Delaware's state insect in 1974 when a group of second graders learned that other states had a state bug and Delaware did not. They chose the ladybug and then their teacher led them through the legislative process to declare Delaware's state insect. Their efforts are an example of what a small group of people can do to make a difference! The Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs and the

Delaware Flower Show Judges Council presented *"Summer Road Trip"*, an NGC Design Specialty Show. There was lots of excitement about this first State Flower Show in quite a few years. We hope the excitement and creativity of this Flower Show will encourage local Clubs to plan a show! Through a drawing held at a meeting, Clubs signed up for a Class of Design – *Pack the Car and Let's Go!* Each of the 12 clubs accepted the challenge to do the 4 designs in their chosen class (a total of 48 designs). Two Clubs created Educational Exhibits: Our National Parks and Great Gardens of America. On the day of the show, the room was filled with excitement as members viewed our *"Summer Road Trip"*.



**Photos taken by
Pat Minnigh and Connie
Raymond**

Club presidents gathered in July with our Board for an open forum to learn and share opportunities for the coming year. We prepared a Handbook for Club Presidents as a source of valuable information and resources. We talked about retaining and growing Club membership, engaging youth, connecting with community partners, environmental concerns, Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorials and much, much more.



Let's Go to the CAR-SGC Conference in Maryland!

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

Maryland



This administration started on a high note with the attendance of the "Maryland Delegation" to the NGC Annual Meeting. It was a memorable experience enjoyed by four former presidents, current 2nd VP, and myself.

Donna Miller Our State's theme for 2025-27 is "Be a Steward of the Earth". We will continue to work with Districts, Clubs and our members to implement programs that will benefit the environment. This will be accomplished with grants and partnerships. In collaboration with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Forest Service, we recently planted Liberty Tree and Wye Oak seedlings on the campus of Garrett College, also just named an Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus.



Maryland Delegation: Carolyn Braverman, Randy Low, Diana Bonner, Anna O'Kelly, Susie Middleton, Donna Miller: Photo taken by Vaughn Miller



Tree planting at Garrett College: Photo by John Rudd, Creative Services Specialist at Garrett College

We are also enjoying the beauty of our natural world with garden tours, plant sales and floral designs. During our Art Blooms event, a three-day exhibit featuring the work of 40 floral designers from across the region, each designer was assigned a work of art and created an arrangement inspired by it. The results were surprising, beautiful and provocative.



Jellyfish



Photos of Art Blooms taken by members of the Calvert Garden Club



Our plans for the future include two flower shows in September and, the piece de resistance, hosting the 2025 CAR-SGC Annual Conference and Tri-Refresher at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge MD October 19 – 22. Looking forward to seeing many of you there!

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

National Capital Area



Danielle Brabazon

our President, Danielle Brabazon was voted in as a provisional Horticulture instructor for Flower Show School! Meanwhile, our Board/Districts and Clubs were spreading seeds around the DMV! In June we participated at the Chesapeake Native Plant Festival and made some new friends (photos below). We had fabulous flower shows in May and wonderful District meetings in June. We launched our updated website in July with a fabulous Youth section to inspire clubs with easy activities to engage youth in our communities. Also, in July we officially welcomed the NCAGC Virtual Garden Club to our membership. Melinda Sigal and her board have successfully completed one year and have welcomed sixteen new faces to NCAGC!



Two new members of the Mount Airy Claybreakers helped support the NCAGC table at the Chesapeake Native Plant Festival on June 29th.

President Brabazon with Lisa Garret with Prince George's County Audubon Society.





NCAGC First Vice President Joyce Skoglund recruiting

Photos by Danielle Brabazon

We are *seeding* educational opportunities for our membership starting with our Judges Council hosting a Symposium (September 16 and 17th) followed by two new School Chairs organizing hybrid courses in both Landscape Design School (Course 3 on October 27 and 28, 2025) and Gardening School (Course 1 on November 17 and 18, 2025). I am looking forward to *seeding* community at our four District meetings in September and our Fall State meeting at the National Arboretum with a presentation by Director Richard Olsen.

NCAGC will celebrate 75 years in March 2026! We are so grateful to the Maryland and Virginia Federations for working with us to create our State! In 2026 we plan to kick off festivities with a Riverboat cruise in Amsterdam, then we will celebrate at our April 14th meeting at the National Arboretum, hold a June conference and conclude with a State Flower show at the National Arboretum in late September and early October. So many wonderful seeds are being planted around the DMV! Looking forward to sharing updates in October in Cambridge, MD!

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



**Photo by
Shirley
Nicolai**

New Jersey

The Garden Club of New Jersey just had our centennial celebration that was kicked off at our Annual Meeting in May at the Navesink Country Club. We bid farewell to Beverly Kazickas, our outgoing State President, as she embarks on her new role as the Central Atlantic Region – SGC



Sue Berdahl

Director. We were also delighted to welcome Donna Donnelly from South Carolina, the new National Garden Club President, and Monica Hansen from upstate New York, the previous CAR Director, and many of esteemed past NJ State Presidents, who made the event truly memorable and a fantastic start to this exciting chapter.



GCNJ Annual Meeting 2025

Beverly Kazickas, Sue Berdahl, Donna Donnelly and Monica Hansen

My term started with my first meeting in June with awarding 13 scholarship winners, and funded scholarships to two interns from Rutgers Garden. In addition, the Scholarship Committee selected two recipients from the GCNJ Scholarship winners and submitted, on their behalf, a scholarship application



9 of the 13 scholarship winners – GCNJ June 2025

to the National Garden Club (NGC) and Central Atlantic Region (CAR). One applicant received a scholarship from NGC, and the other was awarded a scholarship from CAR. We had refreshments and took pictures with the winners.

Attended Flower Shows throughout the state, and a celebration of a club's 50th year. I look forward to connecting with all our garden clubs, learning more about their inspiring work, and working together on our shared passion for gardening.

This year, I invite everyone to embrace the theme "*The Importance of Pollinators—Go Native*"; Together, we will explore time-honored and innovative gardening practices that protect our water resources and support pollinators through native planting.

With genuine enthusiasm and dedication, I am excited to lead our organization over the next two years,

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

New York

It's been a busy summer in New York! There have been numerous flower shows as well as district and club get-togethers. And everywhere I've travelled as president, multiple members (and non-members!) walked up to me to ask about actively supporting our goal of creating new gardens and spaces for pollinators and wildlife. Many more walk up to me to say that they are already certified as pollinator or wildlife gardens!

We're taking a simple approach to encouraging the formation of these gardens. We are developing a survey that will go to each club in order to identify how many pollinator / wildlife gardens FGCNYS already has in New York. That survey will also ask which organization certified the gardens. We will create a state map so we can understand the extent of current coverage and monitor additions.

Concurrently, we are preparing guidelines on the qualifications for designation as a pollinator / wildlife garden and on the process for applying for such a certification.

We're looking into developing simple signs that can be posted in each garden so that passers-by understand that they are looking at specialized gardens that benefit everyone. We hope that such visible signs of helping the environment will lead to increased membership, especially to developing opportunities to Plant the Seeds of Growth by encouraging activities for children and youth.

In addition to the pollinator / wildlife gardens, we are exploring the feasibility of our members becoming involved in some citizen scientist activities in conjunction with Cornell University.

We are gearing up for the fall planting season, with community window boxes to plant, personal and communal gardens to put to bed for the season, annual and holiday luncheons to celebrate our gardening season and our friendships.

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

Ohio



Debra Turner

Ohio's president's theme "Plant a Future" was inspired by speakers at district meetings and holiday shows I attended from 2021-2025 as First and Second Vice President of the Garden Club of Ohio. Sometimes they moved me almost to tears.

Some spoke of moving beyond global-warming doomsday scrolling through the internet. Their great concern remained, but they spoke about what they're doing to try to protect and encourage life that may need to move to higher elevations or north (in this hemisphere) to survive.

They spoke of carbon sequestration. They spoke about migration patterns. About birds, pollinators, amphibians, insects, native plants and trees. Preservation. Conservation. Lake Erie health. Watershed runoff. Feeding people healthy food. Waterfront renewal projects. Reclamation. Planting trees that are native to warmer zones so that they may survive and provide food to life migrating north.

As I ran my “Plant a Future” idea past people, some noted that it would be hard to judge which projects would be most worthy because we can’t really know what will happen. That’s true. We can’t predict the future, but we can plant for a future. Time and again I have thought of an old prayer and I’ve personalized it for us: “God, you have called your gardeners to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Let us go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but with your hand leading us and your love supporting us.”

We can do what we can as gardeners to care for our green earth, our blue planet.

Donna Donnelly’s Theme is similar: Plant America. Plant for the Next 100 Years. And it works with the theme of Beverly Kazickas: Plant America. Gardening for a Healthy Mind, Body and Soul.

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

Pennsylvania



Patricia Wolanski

Pennsylvania has had a busy few months! We recently held a vibrant Board Meeting with a fun “Celebrating the 60s and 70s” theme – members looked totally *far out* in their retro attire, adding extra flair to the day.

Several Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial dedications and club anniversaries were recognized, honoring both history and service.

Educational opportunities have been a focus, with two well-attended floral design and horticulture webinars for our members. Planning is also well underway for our statewide garden tour – Pennsylvania’s Garden Party - in June 2026, showcasing our state’s beautiful private gardens.

Our GCFP Reads program is growing, with books available for each District to inspire members to form reading groups for discussion or to create club programs based on the material. We have also

received generous donations of artwork to support our Healing Art Program – which donates artwork to healthcare facilities and schools. This is the gift that keeps on giving.



**Flight 93
Memorial
Children’s
garden**

Our youth program, Sprouts & Seedlings, is thriving and inspiring more clubs to register youth groups with GCFP –investing in the next generation of gardeners.



We also recently hosted a meeting with all club presidents – their first in a series planned to strengthen communication between state officers and local clubs, helping leaders feel supported and connected. As we look ahead, we are preparing for our Annual District Meetings and Luncheons in September.



Pennsylvania is celebrating nature while embracing the future and Making our Keystone a Gemstone – One Project at a Time!

Patricia Wolanski, President
Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

Duck Creek Gardeners Gala Celebrating 32 Years of Growth & Gratitude

A Night to Remember

On the evening of June 8, 88 guests gathered beneath the chandeliers of the historic Smyrna Opera House to honor the Duck Creek Gardeners' 32-year legacy. The gala was a vibrant celebration of community, sustainability, and the enduring spirit of friendship.

Honoring Our Founders

Regina Brown and Alice Hill, whose vision helped cultivate one of Smyrna's most cherished organizations, were celebrated with heartfelt tributes and official proclamations from:

- State Representative William Carson
- Kent County Levy Court Pres. Joanne Masten
- Smyrna Mayor Tabitha Gott
- Former DFGC President Ginny Cardona

Each honoree received a tree planted in their name at the Delaware Botanical Gardens and curated gift baskets filled with teas—a nod to their nurturing presence.



Keepsakes & Symbols

Club members received ladybug keepsakes, symbolizing Delaware's pollinators and the club's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Gala Highlights

- **Garden-Inspired Cuisine:** Locally sourced dishes delighted every palate
- **Live Music:** A blend of classical charm and upbeat rhythms set the tone
- **Charity Auction:** Featuring standout items from Jim Sutton of Longwood Gardens, raising funds for Duck Creek's scholarship programs

Our Roots Run Deep

This gala was more than a celebration—it was a reflection of the values that have guided Duck Creek Gardeners for over three decades: sustainability, friendship, and a deep love for the land.



Rita Puriefey,
Duck Creek Gardeners of
Delaware

Vision of Beauty Calendar



The 2026 *Vision of Beauty* Calendars are available for \$10 each (+shipping) in the National Garden Club store on www.gardenclub.org. I have never used the calendar for a date book. I enjoy perusing the pictures of the designs and gardens. The pictures are inspirational! And,,,,,if you missed getting the 2024 or

2025 calendar they are available in the NGC Store for \$3 each (+shipping).

Have you taken a photograph of your spring, summer, fall, or winters floral design(s) or your garden. Challenge yourself for next year. 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.

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

A Sense of the Season

Here in New Jersey, Garden Clubs have been supporting the Blue Star Memorial project since its inception in 1944, when the president of the New Jersey Garden Club partnered with state highway

officials to provide a lasting tribute to returning service members.

Since that time, the program has grown and expanded to *all states in the country!* There are over 3000 Blue Star markers nationwide, and New Jersey has 40, with at least one in each county. The Blue Star program pays tribute to all men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the nation's armed forces.



Gold Star Glouster



Gold Star Sussex



Blue Star Sussex



Blue Star Little Silver

Photos by Joan Cichalski

In addition, the Blue Star program now supports Gold Star Memorials, which honor those who gave their lives for this country.

Only garden clubs affiliated with National Garden Clubs (NGC) are permitted to sponsor Blue/Gold Star memorials. Clubs work closely with their state's Blue Star chair, as well as with the national chair of the project. Clubs will often reach out to community and veterans groups when planning a Blue Star project for their support and involvement. Clubs usually find

the process deeply rewarding as they work with others to honor our service men and women.

For more information on how your club can become part of this program, visit the NGC website and follow the Blue Star link under "projects." Your state's Blue Star chair should also be able to help your club through the steps.

What better way to honor those who support and defend our country?

*Joan Cichalski,
Blue Star Chair*

Xeriscaping

Our weather in the Central Atlantic Region has been redundant the past two years, although this summer has felt a little more sauna-like-above 80 degrees and humid with very little rain. What is a gardener to do?

Practice Xeriscaping! This is not zero-scaping. You can still plant an abundance of plants, just make sure they will survive climate conditions. Here are some Perennials that will not only survive when planted properly but will adorn your gardens with their jewel-like hues.

Kniphofia or Red-Hot Poker

They stand out in your garden with their bright colors, love the sun and are drought resistant. It spreads about 3' and 5' tall, a perfect back of the border plant. They are deer resistant.

Hylotelephium telephium or Orphine (Stonecrop)

Also called witches' moneybags, a succulent that has edible flowers and leaves when young. Most of you are familiar with 'Herbstfreude' Autumn Joy. This brings beautiful color to a fall garden.

Euphorbia or Spurge

There are hundreds off varieties of this drought resistant plant. It also thrives in dry shade. I have grown *Euphorbia* in zone 5-6 but it really thrives in zone 7. This is a front of the border plant with tiny flowers and spreads easily if you want to cover a large area.

What else to entice you? *Eryngium*-Sea Holly, *Salvia patens*, *Oenothera lindheimeri*-Gaura 'whirling

Butterflies' and *Amsonia hubrichtii* or thread-leaf blue star which tolerates deer and clay soil.

If you're like me, you can't go to a garden center without coming home with a multitude of plants that you never intended to buy but "will find a place for." Garden centers can be helpful in providing growing information and options for your garden.

Happy hunting!

*Jane Madis,
Xeriscaping and Sustainable Gardening*

2025 NGC Youth Sculpture Contest

Exciting news! The CAR-SGC Region had an NGC First Place Winner in the 5th grade from the State of Maryland. The winning entry was a reindeer made from an empty soda bottle, yogurt container, newspaper, recycled wool and other recycled objects. The student's comments were, "Instead of letting plastic float in the ocean or sit in landfills, it can have a second life as art!" A lesson to be learned.

Our goal was to have entries from all the states in the CAR-SGC Region. We thank Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Ohio for submitting a total of eleven sculpture entries – all were winners in our eyes. We are again setting a goal of 100% participation from our Region and need the support of the State Presidents. Please share this article with your State and District Youth Chairs.

The contest rules are simple:

- *Children in 4th through 8th grade are eligible
- *Sculptures must consist of recyclable, reused and reduced materials
- *Width of the sculpture can be no more than 8 ½ X 11 inches and height should be in proportion to width
- *Entries may include as many photographs as can be printed on the back of the entry form, but two 4x6 photographs are recommended. THE SCULPTURE ITSELF IS NOT SUBMITTED.
- *Entries must be sent to your State Youth Chairman observing State Deadlines.
- *The State Youth Chairman sends the state first place winner to me, CAR-SGC NGC Youth

Sculpture Contest Chair after the selection has been made.

The Entry Form is on the NGC website and is easy to complete. In addition to name and contact information, list of materials used, describe the sculpture in 3-5 sentences, send photographs and that's it.

Certificates of Appreciation will be distributed at the October CAR-SGC Conference in Maryland to all those creative students who participated in the sculpture contest.

Diana Bonner,
CAR-SGC NGC Youth Sculpture Contest Chair

Winter Survival – A New Paradigm

Although classic thinking in biology has long assumed a given wildlife species relies primarily on one of the 3 main strategies for winter survival – migration, dormancy or cold resistance – that paradigm is beginning to change. In 2022, biologist Gloria Auteri published a paper presenting a new concept for looking at cold-survival strategies. She suggests that rather than relying on a single survival tactic, many animals depend on 2 or 3 strategies. This theory was prompted by her 10-year study of Bats. “A lot of species use at least 2 strategies pretty heavily: hibernating and migrating,” she says. Big brown and silver-haired bats undertake southward migrations- either long or short trips , depending on the location of their summer habitats- which means they can decrease the amount of time they spend hibernating in winter.

In talking with other scientists, she found that bats weren't the only animals using multiple strategies. While some species may rely heavily on a single approach, many others including birds and small mammals mix and match, optimize a balance that works best for them. Auteri said if you looked closely enough at any animal, most of them are using all 3 strategies to some degree. “It's a pretty big shift for us as scientists.”

Hummingbirds are prime examples of winter survival skills that scientists are just beginning to understand.

Looking more closely, some birds actually shift their internal body temperatures more than was thought by entering short-term spells of dormancy known as torpor. Nighthawks, poorwills and related species as well as hummingbirds are adopting this survival trick. Hummingbirds even in good times require large supply of calories relative to their body size. Torpor is a versatile, energy-saving mechanism for them says biologist, Erich Eberts. New thinking about winter survival strategies leads to a brighter outlook for other wildlife. Hummingbirds along with other species are changing their strategies by trading things off and just thrive in so many different environments. Because they are so flexible, Eberts and other scientists expect will apply to more and more wildlife in the future.

-taken from “National Wildlife” -Winter Issue2025

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

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 a monetary reward, which is not mentioned in old Awards Rules. Applications for 2025 NGC Flower Shows (including Small Standard Flower Shows) must be submitted by April 1, 2026.



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

Shirley Nicolai,
AHS Regional Perennial Award Chair

Dahlia Shows This Fall In CAR

Where are they and How do you enter them?

One of my favorite seasons is the fall, not just because the weather cools off and the foliage is brilliant, but because my garden is bursting with dahlias of all sizes, shapes and colors and I can hardly wait to volunteer at the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Show. We are fortunate that Longwood Gardens hosts our Society's Dahlia Show every year – what a gorgeous setting for a flower show!

The American Dahlia Society lists all the states' upcoming Dahlia Shows and can be found at <https://www.dahlia.org/>. If you are not familiar with dahlias, I think you will be amazed at the range of shapes and forms of dahlias. You may be familiar with the stunning dinner plate dahlias or the perfectly symmetrical ball and pompom dahlias, but do you know there are 14 different forms of dahlias? Have you heard of the mignon singles, collarettes, orchettes or orchids?

Perhaps you would like to enter some of your lovely dahlias in a show near you? Entering a dahlia show is similar to entering an NGC Flower Show, but I have learned that there are some differences:

1. **The Dahlia Society typically supplies all the containers.** Transport your dahlias carefully to the show and transfer them into the containers provided. (This may not be true at all dahlia shows.)
2. **The entry cards require different information than our standard flower show entry cards.** Dahlias are classified by size, form and color. This information must be provided on each entry card. To learn more, watch this 2 minute video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRX5m3t1ouE>
3. **Each dahlia is assigned a 4 digit numerical code -the numbers symbolize the size, form and color.** This number can be found in the Dahlia Classification & Handbook, which will be available at check-in at <https://www.dahlia.org/shop/2025-classification-and-handbook-of-dahlias-ship-to-us-only/or-purchased>

There are typically experienced dahlia society members ready to help you complete your entry cards, but you should come prepared with the name of the dahlia, the size and the form. With that information, an experienced member will be able to look up the 4 digit code you need to put on the form. Read this article to find charts on size, form, and color: <https://gardenerspath.com/plants/flowers/dahlia-types/>

4. **If you are relatively new to growing your dahlias, you may wish to enter the show in Division 4 entitled "Small Growers." BE SURE TO REQUEST SMALL GROWER ENTRY CARDS.** "A SMALL GROWER grows plants for pleasure, does not sell for a profit, has never been employed as a gardener, and grows less than 75 dahlias."

If you've never been to a dahlia show, TREAT YOURSELF! The dahlias will DAZZLE YOU!

Sharon Richardson, Pennsylvania

CAR-SGC Life Membership Report

Since October 2024, the CAR-SGC has welcomed 8 new members. They will be recognized at the upcoming conference where they will receive a certificate and life membership pin. They are:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 225 | Lynn Jackson GCFP Presque Isle Garden Club, |
| 226 | Susan Trager GCNY Artful Gardeners, |
| 227 | Susan Middleton GCMD Dorchester, Oxford and Talbot County Garden Clubs, |
| 228 | Alva Hutchison DFGC Gardeners by the Sea, |
| 229 | Sue Berdahl GCNJ Shrewsbury Garden Club, |
| 230 | Judy Bonanno GCNJ Shrewsbury Garden Club, |
| 231 | Patricia Wolanski GCFP Norristown Garden Club, |
| 232 | Kelli Spranger GCNY Warwick Valley Garden Club. |

Vicki Bellias donated a bronze level contribution of \$100 to Scholarship Patronage.

*Claire Lechlitter,
CAR-SGC Life Membership Chair*

Contact Information for Garden Club Yearbooks:

Beverly Kazickas, CAR-SGC Director, 2025-2027

Email: carsgc.regiondirector@gmail.com

Website: car-sgc.org

Please use the CAR-SGC Email Address and Website

Password has been 2325@CARegion – will be

updated to 2527@CARegion

No Personal Email Address is Available

Cell Phone: 201-321-7004 (text)

Cecelia Millea, Alternate Director, 2025-2027

Email Address: cmillea@msn.com

Cell Phone: 856-296-1799

Schools Being Held by NGC

Environmental School:

Jan. 13 – 15, 2026. St. Augustine, FL - Zoom – Course 1.

Contact: Beverly Williams,
bevthepatriot@gmail.com

Nov. 3 – 4, 2025. Augusta, MI. In-Person – Course 2.

Contact: Beth Markowski, bmarkowski@migardenlubs.org

Sept. 26 – 27, 2025. Sheboygan, WI. In-Person – Course

3. Contact: Karen Merlau, kmerlau@tds.net

Oct. 22- 23, 2025. Bowling Green, KY – Course 3.

Contact: Carrie Morgan, morgance49@icloud.com

March 16 – 19, 2026. St. Louis, MO. Virtual – Course 3.

Contact: Jan Conant, djconant@msn.com

April 6 – 7, 2026. Augusta, MI. In-Person – Course 3.

Contact: Beth Markowski, bmarkowski@migardenlubs.org

Sept. 18 – 19, 2025. Derby, CT. Virtual – Course 4.

Contact: Ginny.casanova, Ginny.casanova@ctgardenclubs.org

Sept. 19 – 21, 2025. Mexia, TX. IN-Person – Course 4.

Contact: Sarah McReynolds, esarabeth@aol.com

Nov. 20 – 21, 2025. Fort Myers, FL. Virtual – Course 4.

Contact: Judy Francino, jfrancino@att.net

Nov. 2 -23, 2026. Augusta, MI. In-Person - Course 4.

Contact: : Beth Markowski, bmarkowski@migardenlubs.org

Flower Show School:

Sept. 24, 2025. Poway, CA. Design Only. Course 1.

Contact: Emily Troxell, etroxell035@gmail.com

Oct. 27 – 30, 2025. Dallas, TX. Course 1.

Contact: Gina Woods, gina@tropicalsbygina.com

Sept. 25 – 27, 2025. Poway, CA. Course 2.

Contact: Laura Crenshae

Sept. 30 – Oct. 8, 2025. Voorheesville, NY. Course 2.

Contact: Gail Berti, chiara215@aol.com

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

Contact: Evie Matzke, eviemat52@aol.com.

March 2 – 6, 2025. Little Rock, AR. Course 2.

Contact: Rose Knight, jkknight@suddenlink.net

October 9 – 16, 2025. Rocky Hill, CT. Course 3.

Contact: Peggy Townsend, peggytownsend@ctgardenclubs.org

October 15 – 18, 2025. Milford, MA. Course 3.

Contact: Kathy Hawes, kmh4383@gmail.com

April 13 - 15, 2026. Gettysburg, PA – Course 3 –

Contact: Evie Matzke, eviemat52@aol.com.

Sept. 24 – 26, 2025. Red Bluff, CA. Course 4.

Contact: Fran Galantine, Frangalantine@gmail.com

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

Contact: Evie Matzke, eviemat52@aol.com.

Flower Show Symposium:

September 16 – 17, 2025. Bethesda, MD.

Contact: Jo Sellers, josellers@cox.net

October 16 – 17, 2025. Rocky Hill, CT.

Contact: Cindy Marien, cstarmarien@aol.com

October 27 – 28, 2025. Elkhart Lake, WI.

Contact: Liz Murken, lizmurken@gmail.com.

October 27 – 28, 2025. Raleigh, NC.

Contact: Connie Goodson, conniejog@gmail.com

November 3 – 4, 2025. Richmond, VA.

Contact: Dianna Busch, diannabusch@comcast.net

November 18 – 19, 2025. Stuart, FL.

Contact: Nancy Binger, nancybinger6@gmail.com

Gardening School:

Nov. 17 – 18, 2025. Fairfax, VA. Hybrid – Course 1.

Contact: Melanie Dann, gs@ncagardenclubs.org

Sept. 12 – 13, 2025. Sawyer, MI. In-Person - Course 2.

Contact: Michelle Armstrong, marmstrong@migardenclubs.org

Sept. 25 – 26, 2025. New Haven, CT. Virtual – Course 2.

Contact: Cindy Eadie,
cindy.eadie@ctgardenclubs.org

Sept. 25 - 26, 2025. Encino, CA – In-Person – Course 3.

Contact: Robin Pokorski, CGCIRobin@gmail.com.

Sept. 28 – Oct. 1. New Smyrna Beach, FL – In-Person –

Course 3. Contact: Sally Flanagan, sfflan@aol.com

April 17 – 18, 2026. Sawyer, MI. In-Person - Course 3.

Contact: Michelle Armstrong, marmstrong@migardenclubs.org

Oct. 23 - 24, 2025. Encino, CA – In-Person – Course 4.

Contact: Robin Pokorski, CGCIRobin@gmail.com.

Oct. 29 – 30, 2025. Tacoma, WA. In-Person – Course 4.

Contact: Kathy Johnson, kathyj16@msn.com

Feb. 9 – 11, 2026. New Smyrna Beach, FL – In-Person –

Course 4. Contact: Sally Flanagan, sfflan@aol.com

April 9 – 11, 2026. Chelmsford, MA. Course 4.

Contact: Linda Jean Smith, lindajeane.smith@comcast.net

Sept. 18 – 19, 2026. Sawyer, MI. In-Person - Course 3.

Contact: Michelle Armstrong, marmstrong@migardenclubs.org

Landscape Design School:

September 29 – 30, 2025. College Station, TX – In-

Person - Course 1.

Contact: Michele Wehrheim
texaslandscapedesignschool@gmail.com

October 13 – 14, 2025. Richmond, VA – In-Person –

Course 1.

Contact: Glenda Knowles, ggknowles6@gmail.com

September 29 – 30, 2025. Baton Rouge, LA – In-Person –

Course 2.

Contact: Gail Lonibos, glonibos@yahoo.com

October 27 – 28, 2025. Fairfax, VA – Hybrid – Course 3.

Contact: Jennifer Francois
lds@ncagardenclubs.org

December 11 – 12, 2025. Starkville, MS – In-Person –

Course 3.

Contact: Mary Lynn Powers, mlpowers43@gmail.com

September 22 – 23, 2025. Lansing, MI. Course 4.

Contact: Ronalee Polad, rpolad@migardenclubs.org

Oct. 28 – 29, 2025. Waltham, MA– Virtual – Course 4.

Contact: Beate Bolen, Beatebolen@gmail.com

November 11 – 12, 2025. Charleston, SC – In-Person –

Course 4. Contact: Paul Gilson, pgilson@verizon.net

Tri-Refreshers:

October 15 – 16, 2025. Westerville, Ohio. Zoom.

Tri-Refresher in Environmental, Landscape Design,
and Gardening Schools.

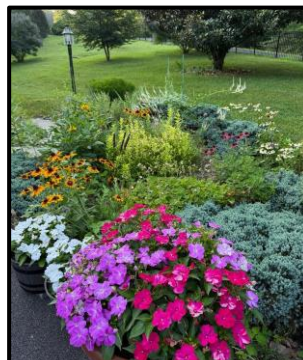
Contact: Pat Rupiper, patrupiper@gmail.com

October 19 – 22, 2025. Cambridge, MD.

Tri-Refresher in Environmental, Landscape Design,
and Gardening Schools

Contact: Central Atlantic Region - Hosted by the
2025 CAR-SGC Conference in Maryland

Summer Blooms



Jamie Nick's Garden-Photo by J.Nick



Kaki Power's Garden-
Photo by C. Carbaugh



Shirley Nicolai's Garden –
Photos by S. Nicolai

Kaki Power's
Garden –
Photo by
C. Carbaugh



DAHLIA SHOWS in CAR Region, Submitted by Sharon Richardson, GCFP

New York

Rochester Dahlia Society

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4115 Dewey Ave, Rochester, NY 14616

Saturday, September 13th, 1 to 4 pm, Sunday, September 14th, 12 to 3 pm.

Gerald Kloc, gikloc@yahoo.com

Southern Tier Dahlia Society

Steuben County Fair Grounds Bath, NY

8/12/25

Contact info – wraggc61@gmail.com

Steuben Co. Fair Grounds Bath, NY

9/6/25, public entry 3pm when judging complete

Contact – wraggc61@gmail.com

Mid Island Dahlia Society

59th Annual Dahlia Exhibition, free admission

Burns Horticultural Conference Center

Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, Oyster Bay, New York

September 13, 1-5pm, September 14, 10am-3pm

Ohio

Greater Columbus Dahlia Society

Union County YMCA

1150 Charles Lane, Marysville OH 43040

Saturday, August 30: 1-5 pm, Sunday, August 31: 1-4 pm

Website: columbusdahlias.com

Email: gcds@columbusdahlias.com

Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society

Boardman Park

Lariccia Family Community Center, 375 Boardman-Poland Road (St Rt 224), Boardman OH. 44512

Saturday, August 23 1:00 pm to close

Sunday, August 24 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Harriet Chandler hchandler1@neo.rr.com

Pennsylvania

Gettysburg Dahlia Society <https://www.gettysburgdahliasociety.org/>

Harbaugh Thomas Library, Biglerville, PA

September 5 and 6

Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society <https://philadahlia.org/>

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA.

Saturday, September 20, 1:00 to closing, Sunday 10-6 pm

National Capitol Dahlia Society (greater Washington D.C.) <https://www.gettysburgdahliasociety.org/>

- September 5 & 6 – Gettysburg Dahlia Society Show – Biglerville PA
- Sept 26-28 – National Capital Dahlia Society Annual Show – Brookside Gardens Wheaton MD
- October 4 – Harvest Festival