

CAR Review



Beverly Kazickas, Director



From Our Director:

Theme: Gardening for a Healthy Mind, Body and Soul

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
cscarbaugh@verizon.net**

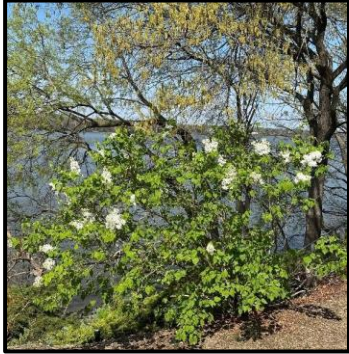
Happy Spring! After a cold, snowy, record-breaking winter, we have plenty of upcoming activities for our members to participate in. As you will read in the State President’s Messages included in this newsletter, there are plans throughout the Region for Flower Shows, Garden Tours (Pennsylvania will be hosting a statewide tour of 90 gardens during June - see additional details in Pat Wolanski’s message), Plant Sales, Meetings, Fundraisers and much more. Congratulations to the National Capital Area Garden Clubs on celebrating their 75th Anniversary (event info is available in Danielle Brabazon’s message).

During the next 2 months, I’m looking forward to attending Annual Meetings at 5 of our 7 ‘CAR States’ ... Delaware, Pennsylvania, National Capital Area, New Jersey and Ohio ... here I come! Plus, an upcoming trip in May to the National Garden Clubs Annual Convention in St. Louis. I look forward to meeting many of you along the way (and visiting Maryland and New York next spring).

In addition to this spring’s annual meetings, conferences and convention, the team in Ohio is hard at work on the 2026 CAR-SGC Conference scheduled for October 19 – 21, 2026 in Cleveland. The link to the ‘early bird’ registration form will be available by early June, so keep a look out for more information about gathering with fellow gardening enthusiasts in the Central Atlantic Region. All are welcome to attend the conference which will include a flower show of petite designs, speakers, vendors and an optional bus tour to several iconic spots. Please join us!

For inspiration, click the following link to photos taken by Bob Howatt at the 2025 conference. *CAR-SGC 2025 Conference Power Point by Robert Howatt.pptx*

This year, our nation is celebrating its 250th birthday and I encourage all members to participate by planting a patriotic theme of red, white and blue in support of the National Garden Clubs PLANT AMERICA project. Let’s celebrate our nation’s heritage by planning gardens that reflect the country’s patriotism. Your local Blue Star and Gold Star Memorials are perfect locations to plant red, white and blue.



I’ve enjoyed hearing from many of you - thank you for your messages. Please be sure to update your contact list to reflect my new address ... All mail for the CAR-SGC Director 2025 – 2027 should be sent to: *Beverly Kazickas, PO Box 206, Amagansett, NY 11930* (I’m enjoying the move, although, I sure miss my friends and fellow garden clubbers in my home state of New Jersey!)

Wishing you all the best,

Beverly

**Beverly Kazickas,
CAR-SGC Region Director 2025-2027**

Lilac along the Potomac at Shirley Nicolai’s

Contents:

Director’s Column	1	Life Members	11
Save the Date	2	Sustainable Gardening ..	11
States	3	Pollinators	11
Flower Show in Cleveland	9	Pussy Willows	12
Pennsylvania Garden Party	9	Schools	12
Vision of Beauty	10		



From Our States:

Delaware

**PLANT AMERICA: Cultivate *Loveliness*
Grow. Encourage. Prepare. Connect.**



Alva Hutchison

As our Nation celebrates the 250th Anniversary, Delaware also celebrates 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence. Delaware is known as The First State, because it was the first to ratify the Constitution on December

7, 1787. Our State Flag features a farmer with his hoe and our DFGC logo includes a spade.

YAY! It is time to start digging in our gardens!

Our Garden Clubs are busy planning gardens throughout the state to burst in blooms of red, white and blue this summer. Our Horticulture chairs are providing “You too, Can Do, Red White and Blue,” a list suggesting flowers to plant as our nation celebrates the 250th Anniversary!

Delaware has 14 Blue Star Memorial Markers throughout the state. There is one Gold Star Families marker with another on order. We encourage Clubs and partners to plant patriotic gardens in all our memorial and community gardens, as well as at home.



Photo by Pat Minnigh of Plantation Lakes GC

Middletown-Odesa Club uses this theme for their upcoming NGC Small Standard Flower Show on May 6th. Milford Garden Club will hold their show on June 11th. Mark your calendars and join us!

Delaware Judges Council launched the schedule for the statewide Holiday Standard Flower Show on November 18, 2026, *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. Members will start signing up at our upcoming State meeting.

Spade and Trowel Garden Club received a PLANT AMERICA Community Grant from NGC to help finance their landscape project at a new local community center.

Our state has 381 miles of tidal shoreline, including the Atlantic Ocean coast, Delaware Bay and inland waterways. In our recent newsletter, Environmental Concerns Chair reminds us of the impact of incursion of saltwater impacting our plants and habitats. A group of garden clubs are collaborating with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to plan and provide a natural garden at the newly renovated Biden Environmental Education Center at Cape Henlopen State Park.

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow” is a quote attributed to the beautiful Audrey Hepburn. It reminds us of the hope and trust we have as gardeners as we place seeds or plants in the ground. Several of our Clubs have community Seed Libraries. Some seeds are harvested from their members’ gardens and saved to pass along to other gardeners. For me, there is no greater joy than having legacy plants in my garden, which came from friends. Share your love of gardening with others!



Photo by Middletown Odessa GC

Delaware looks forward to welcoming CAR-SGC Director Beverly Kazickas to our April meeting!

PLANT AMERICA: CULTIVATE *Loveliness*.

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

Maryland



Indeed, it was a very cold and snowy winter, but Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland remained involved in many activities. Wreath workshops, holiday parades and luncheons, decorating local libraries, community parks, nursing homes,

and Blue and Gold Star markers with wreaths/swags were just a few of our club projects. Many of our clubs also supported Wreaths Across America (WAA) by greeting the truck drivers as they drove from New England to deliver wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery, purchasing wreaths and collecting community orders.

After noticing that not all Veterans Cemeteries received enough wreaths, La Plata Garden Club and the Charles County Master Gardeners joined a members' project to provide "Posies for Vets." Everyone brought greens from their yards and made "posies." This past season 236 posies were placed at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery.



Photo by La Plata Garden Club

Several of our clubs have also gathered to learn and practice winter sowing—an easy, low-cost method of starting seeds outdoors using milk jugs. This technique allows for natural cold stratification, producing hardy, self-sufficient seedlings that are ready to be transplanted when warmer weather arrives.



Photos by Bayside Bloomers Garden Club and Barbara Davis

The 43rd Annual District II Daffodil Show was held March 30 – April 1. "Daffodils go on a Magical History Tour" was the theme, inspired by the location for the show, historic Baldwin Hall in Millersville, MD. Built in 1861, the building was a lovely venue to display the entries in the show.

Halten Garden Club received a National Garden Clubs "Plant America" Grant for \$2,000, which will be used for The Herb Garden at Sherwood House, Cromwell Valley Park, Towson, MD, built in 1935 by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Henry Sherwood. They will use these funds to address climate change, paying attention to "right plant, right place" and the installation of hardscaping for erosion control and bed definition. It will include herbs tolerant of all seasons, perennial native plants and groundcovers (that are not invasive) for pollinators, resulting, eventually, in dense plantings. Educational signage will tell the importance of native pollinator plants and herbs to the community.

Two of our five Districts are participating in the TREX Recycling Challenge. This is the second year for one of the Districts who has already received one TREX bench after collecting 1000 pounds of plastic. Details of the program can be found at [School & Community Recycling Challenge | NexTrex](#).

We are looking forward to our 97th Annual Meeting on April 28, 2026 at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, MD. Our Judges Council will be hosting an NGC Small Standard Flower Show titled "Celebrating 100 Years, Yesterday and Today (1926-2026)." Our program "Night Sounds of Mountain Maryland," will be presented by Kevin Dodge, Professor and Director of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program at Garrett College. Kevin will present an entertaining and educational introduction to the different hoots, toots, peents, and peeps heard after sunset in the Central Appalachians. Weaving



Kevin Dodge

Together facts, stories, and sounds, Kevin will recreate a night in the mountains of western Maryland.

Here's to a quick arrival of spring!

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

National Capital Area



The National Capital Area is kicking off its 75th year with lots of activities and two commemorative items for members to purchase (a scarf and ceramic floral design frog). Each of our four Districts held their Spring

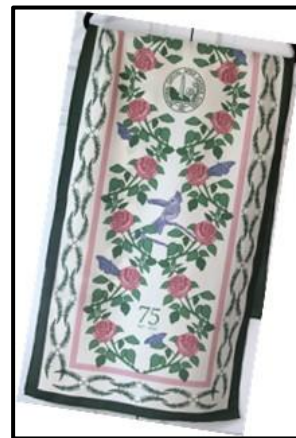
Danielle Brabazon Awards meetings in March. I was able to attend all but one as my President's trip to see Tulips and Windmills on a Riverboat cruise organized by our member, Laura Quirk of Royal Global Travel (<https://www.royalglobaltravel.com/>) conflicted. The eleven of us that were together had a fabulous time and really enjoyed visiting the Keukenhof Gardens as one of the many stops on our tour.

Keukenhof Gardens - inside the Wilhelm building where the tulips were blooming!



In the historic garden at the Keukenhof

Our Spring Awards State meeting is on April 14th at the National Arboretum. We will officially kick-off our 75th celebrations with a light luncheon and cake to follow our Awards presentations and our Gloria Houser presentation by Paige Canfield of Sumner B Designs. NCAGC is honored that Gloria bequeathed money to NCAGC to hold a floral design program and this April, Paige will talk to us about sustainable floral arranging featuring the commemorative ceramic frog created as a 75th keepsake by a local ceramicist name Jason Alexander of Alexander ClayWorks (<https://www.alexanderclayworks.com/>) and husband to one of our members.



75th Anniversary commemorative items:



Rae Marino and Patsie Uchello designed the scarf

Also in April we will offer two schools using the hybrid model. April 9th and 10th will be Gardening School Course 2 held in Derwood, MD in collaboration with the Montgomery County Master Gardeners and one of their demonstration gardens. At the end of the month, April 27 and 28th we will offer Landscape Design School Course 4 in Fairfax, VA. Running these schools is a lot of fun but does require the support of many members and we are grateful to all those in the councils that step up to help.

Every moment spent with members is an opportunity to remember why garden clubs are important not only for our personal needs but the needs of our communities, and finding the avenues to share these opportunities with the public is crucial. Our volunteers are amazing! I am looking forward to the many flower shows that our clubs, Districts and plant affiliates have organized!

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!

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

New Jersey

Spring officially arrives in New Jersey with the much-anticipated Philadelphia Flower Show. The Garden Club of New Jersey (GCNJ) has proudly participated in this event over the years, showcasing the incredible talents of its members. This year, we had some fantastic representations:



Sue Berdahl

- Cecelia Millea from Moorsetown Garden Club displayed her beautiful design.
- Stacy Schaffer, also from Moorsetown Garden Club, shared her captivating creation.
- We welcomed a new Student Judge, Karen Frick from Montclair Garden Club, who brought fresh perspectives to the judging process.



Photos by Teddie Falcone

The GCNJ is actively preparing for our momentous 250th year while participating in the National Garden Club’s Grant Program. New Jersey clubs were awarded 14 National Garden Club Beautification Grants aimed at enhancing Blue and Gold Star memorials. The focus of these grants is to plant vibrant red, white, and blue flowers in honor of America’s 250th Anniversary on July 4, 2026. Additionally, GCNJ received a grant of \$1,000 to plant flowers at four memorial markers, including Holly House, Mountainside, and the Menlo Park Veterans Home. Currently, New Jersey boasts over 40 Blue Star sites, along with 3 Gold Star Byway Markers.

As part of our mission, I adopted the theme “The Importance of Pollinators – Go Native” this year and conducted a PowerPoint presentation for several clubs in District 6. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and I received heartfelt thanks from attendees. In recognition of my focus on Pollinators and Native Plants, clubs generously made a donation in my name to the Rutgers Master Gardeners Program.

The clubs across New Jersey are embracing a vibrant spring and summer, filled with garden tours, plant fundraisers, and luncheons to welcome our new officers. It’s an exciting time to cultivate both friendships and beautiful gardens!

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

**Magnolia in
Alexandria, VA**



New York



Just as our bulbs and plants are now beginning to emerge from the still-cold ground and tantalize us with the promise of spring color and growth, so too are the garden clubs of New York emerging from a very long, very cold winter

Beth Walker and moving into meetings, flower shows, field trips, civic beautification projects, etc. Clubs and individual members continue to meet by Zoom or on conference calls to plan celebratory gardens for semiquincentennial events taking place in our communities and at the myriad historical sites that we support. Planting will come in mid- to late-May.

Planning is almost finalized for our State Convention in June and will begin soon for our Symposium in October. The third session of our Flower Show School will take place in Voorheesville, NY, (outside Albany) on April 18, 20-22, and the fourth session is set for October 5-8 in the same location.

FGCNYS has approached Cornell University to see if they would like to collaborate with FGCNYS on a citizen science pilot program. The focus would be on environmental monitoring using honey bee colonies. Possible areas of investigation might include whether or not environmental signatures of microplastics, pesticide residues, PFAS compounds, or heavy metals could be measured and tracked through pollen or hive debris. We are now waiting to hear from Cornell University to see if they are interested in this joint effort.

We are moving forward with the background work to present an FGCNYS pollinator / wildlife certification program to our members. Members and clubs have expressed strong support for this program and we hope to roll out the preliminary information before our Annual Convention in June.

Another fun and busy year is ahead of us and we are looking forward to it!

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

Ohio



Past Garden Club of Ohio Presidents don't retire. Their special interests continue, as well as their leadership in their own clubs.

Debra Turner Past President Kathy Wagner will work with the North and South Chairs of Blue Star and Honor Parks, Sara Moomaw and Vickie Muse, in a special USA 250 project. They will check out the well being of Ohio's Blue and Gold Star markers and their gardens.

Most markers are still sources of pride and remembrance. Some markers have been moved into storage during highway road reconstructions. Those may need to be restored and replaced in a new garden. Other markers may need a new club or group to tend to their plantings.

Some clubs want to participate in NGC President Donna Donnelly's theme of planting our honor parks red, white and blue in 2026. Some have said they want to add native plants (another special project of Kathy's) in red, white and blue.

Past President Marlene Hatton is now wowing garden club members in Florida with her designs (and delighting in the new plant materials available). She's active in Ohio Judges Council and chaired its most recent Judges Symposium.



**Design by Marlene Hatton at
Ohio Judges Council Flower Show**

Past President Deanna Sterns is chairing the Dorothy Kountz Grant committee that will award up to \$20,000 in grants of up to \$5,000 per club for projects in their communities. This grant began as her President's project. The deadline for proposals this year is May 31.

Spring may begin with six district meetings, continue with the NGC convention and close out in June with the state convention, but, as always, Spring finds its best expression in gardens and in local garden clubs. In May, many clubs plan plant sales. In June, the garden tours (and a scavenger hunt) are spectacular.



Amy VanLew, curator at Raptor Hollow Sanctuary in Alliance, brought this vulture and other rescued birds, mammals and snakes to the Canton District meeting recently.

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

Pennsylvania



Spring is finally here bringing fresh energy and anticipation as we look forward to our annual state convention April 26-28 in Erie, MystERIE at the Bay, which promises to be an exciting and memorable gathering. We are looking forward to welcoming our

Patricia Wolanski CAR-SGC Director, Beverly Kazickas as our guest.

This is a particularly meaningful year as our nation celebrates its 250th birthday. Members across Pennsylvania are embracing a patriotic theme, with many planning red, white, and blue gardens in support of national initiatives as well as Pennsylvania’s participation in honoring our Country’s heritage. Clubs are creating patriotic gardens in their communities, and a special garden is being developed at the Flight 93 Memorial site. We are proud that The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania will contribute to this sacred memorial.

The patriotic theme continues into our June Board Meeting themed “Hats Off to America”. The dinner will feature a festive parade of patriotic hats, along

with trivia and music, adding a spirit of fun and fellowship – oh, and a birthday cake!!

A major highlight of the year is our first-ever statewide garden tour, scheduled for Saturday, June 20 and Saturday June 27. This exciting event will showcase 90 gardens across Pennsylvania, celebrating years of dedication to horticulture and community beautification. Tickets are available through our website at pagardenclubs.org, where full details can be found. We encourage everyone to participate and experience the diversity of Pennsylvania gardens.

Pennsylvania is pleased to share that a new club is in the process of forming, reflecting continued growth and interest in organized garden club participation. Fostering new clubs remains a priority as we look to strengthen our presence throughout the state.

As we look ahead, Pennsylvania remains focused on growth, engagement, and celebrating both our accomplishments and our future.

Making our Keystone a Gemstone,

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



Redbud



Ohio Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges
Presents


'The Beat Goes On...'
A Petite Design Specialty Flower Show

October 19-20, 2026
Monday 11:00 am – 7:00 pm
Tuesday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Held in conjunction with the
2026 CAR-SGC Conference,
'Ohio-The Heart of It All!'


Holiday Inn Cleveland S.
6001 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131
216-524-8050

**Free & Open to
the Public**



Scan me!

Scan this QR code for the
Flower Show Schedule



The Heart of Rock and Roll is Still Beating...in Cleveland!

Get ready for an upbeat burst of fun and creativity!

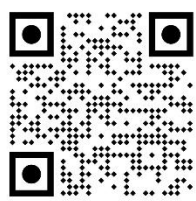
As a special addition to the CAR-SGC Conference in October, a Flower Show is being sponsored to showcase the talents of you, our Region members.

Garden Club of Ohio, Inc. and Ohio Judges Council would like to invite you to 'rock on' with 'The Beat Goes On...', a Petite Design Specialty Flower Show, during the 2026 CAR-SGC Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. This flower show has been tailor made to explore the influence of music with notes to specific states in our Region. You will be transformed into rock royalty, travel to iconic music venues, and explore distinct music genres.

This flower show is open to all members of Central Atlantic Region to enter and view during the Conference. The Flower Show Committee hopes to have entries from all seven states! Since the designs are petites, they should be easy to transport and set up. For those who are unable to attend the Conference in person, the Schedule addresses this issue and includes a few specified classes that are eligible to be mailed in to the committee. The procedures for this opportunity are included under 'General Rules' in the Flower Show Schedule.

Here is your chance to get your 'groove on' and register for a design class or botanical arts design class, or both! Please scan this QR Code for a copy of the Flower Show Schedule. Take a look...and contact the Entries Chairs with your choices. Registrations will be filling fast – Don't miss out! This is a great opportunity for you to step into the spotlight and own the stage.

**Barbara Schuh,
CAR 2026 Flower Show Chairman**



Scan me!

Scan this QR Code for a copy of the Flower Show Schedule:

Pennsylvania Garden Party INVITING CAR-SGC bordering states to Pennsylvania's Garden Party

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania proudly presents the PA Garden Party, the first-ever statewide garden tour on Saturdays, June 20 and June 27, 2026., featuring 90 beautiful private landscapes and unique public gardens. A \$25 ticket buys a tour book, which serves as the entrance ticket, to visit as many gardens as possible on the two days. This is a rain or shine event and purchases are final.



Our friends from all of the CAR-SGC states can access tours that are within driving distance to their home. We have thirteen tours occurring from just east of Pittsburgh, north to Clarion, through Amish country in Lancaster and east to the Main Line of Philadelphia.

For our friends in **Ohio**, the tour by Pucketos & Burrellton Garden Clubs takes place in Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties on Saturday, June 27. Gardens will be featured in the Lower Burrell and New Kensington areas. Also, on June 27, there is a tour hosted by the Wildflower Garden Club of Clarion County.

Members in **Maryland** can head north to the tours by Penn-Cumberland Garden Club in Dauphin and Cumberland Counties, namely Camp Hill and Mechanicsburg on June 20 and Town and Country Garden Club in Lancaster on June 27.

For **Delaware** and **D.C. Area** garden enthusiasts, there are four tours occurring in the southeast portion of PA. Gardens on the Springfield/Broomall area will comprise the tour for the Springfield Garden Club in Delaware County. The Garden Club of Bala Cynwyd, partnering with the Villanova Garden Club in Montgomery County, will host a tour on June 20 along the prestigious Philadelphia Main Line.

On Saturday June 27, in Chester County, the Spade & Trowel Club will host a tour in the Kennett Square/Chadds Ford area while the gardens of the Uwchlan Garden Club can be found in the West Chester/Downingtown area. These areas are also within driving distance for **New Jersey** garden club members.

Other gardens that may be of interest for those traveling from **New Jersey** or **New York** will take place in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. The Country Gardeners will showcase gardens in the Newtown/New Hope area on June 20, while Old York Road Garden Club will host their tour on June 27 in the area of Elkins Park and Willow Grove.

So gather your friends for a road trip and join the party!

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to <https://pagardenclubs.org/gcgp-2026-garden-party>

**Nancy Cuttic, Chair, Garden Party,
Garden Club Federation of PA**

Vision of Beauty



Spring has finally arrived? My, what a frigid, snowy winter was had. March came in like a lion and went out like a lamb so why is April acting like a windy lion? Truly looking forward to the arrival of a colorful spring after such a long winter.

The 2026 Vision of Beauty Calendar is available at the NGC Store for \$10 plus shipping. You may consider ordering a copy if you do not have one already. The pictures are wonderful, educational and inspirational! Flip through the pictures. They may inspire you to consider taking a photograph of your spring garden or design 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. Entries must be received by August 15.

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 details are 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*

Spring Has Arrived!

At last, Spring has arrived!

It has been a very long winter for most of us in the Central Atlantic Region, but now, Daffodils and Crocus are peeking up, slowly opening their buds. Andromeda with their creamy white bells filled with nectar are feeding the first of the emerging bees. Leaves are unfurling, grass is greening up.

Forsythia have bought the sunshine, and Magnolia x soulangeana buds have swollen, ready to open on the first warm day.

At times we have been filled with worry throughout winter about what the fierceness of storms and heavy snow has done to what we have planted,

nurtured through drought and excessive temperatures; about flowering trees and shrubs that could not have survived the cold.

True gardeners have hope and faith through it all that nature will prevail, hope sustaining us through the cold and uncertainty as we smile realizing that the cycle of awakening continues for yet another year.

Happy Spring Everyone!

*Jane Madis,
Sustainable Gardening and Xeriscaping*

CAR Life Membership

The newest life member to the CAR-SGC is Jill Breen from Annapolis, MD. She has served her Chartwell Garden Club as President twice, her District II board as Ways and Means Chair for 4 years and also has been the Harwood House Chair for 23 years. There are no new life members in 2026 to date.

Since the October 2025 conference, I have not received any information regarding donations to the Scholarship Patronage Program.

*Claire Leichter,
CAR-SGC Membership Chair*

A Plea in Behalf of our Pollinators

This is a plea to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) for it's refusal to complete its legally mandated safety review of neonic pesticides. For years now and the coming of spring, the overwhelming scientific evidence has shown that these toxic pesticides are a primary driver of the staggering decline of America's bees and other pollinators -and any further losses would threaten our food system with collapse. Study after study shows that neonics debilitate, sicken and kill vital pollinators like bees. Mounting evidence shows that the danger is not limited to wildlife- humans are at risk, too. Exposure to neonics in the womb is linked to increased risk for malformations of the developing heart and brain, as well as increased risk

of autism spectrum disorder. Yet these pesticides are still allowed to be used in the food that we eat every day. The EPA continues to decline to take the steps needed to protect both American families' health and our food system. The EPA is required to ensure the food Americans consume is safe from toxic pesticides. Unless the EPA takes the long overdue action to restrict the overuse of neonics in our food system, America's pollinators and population's health are at risk. It is up to YOU and ALL AMERICANS to petition the EPA on banning these deadly insecticides.

-letter from Natural Resources Defense Council, 2026

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

Pussy Willows, A Spring Delight

Have you tried to root your own American pussy willow (*Salix discolor*) for friends or your club plant sale? To do it easily requires the temporary use of an indoor container. Year ago, I unsuccessfully tried to root a variety (native and non-native) of pussy willow cuttings given to me by a friend. On March 3, 2026, I bought a bundle of twelve willow cuttings, presumed to be the American variety, from the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society (PHS) booth at the edge of the downstairs Philadelphia Flower Show Marketplace for a bargain price of \$15. While other vendors offered cut willows at a lesser price, PHS the only one who held their bundles in water. The sales person wrapped them securely to hold stem moisture for the trip home and suggested gently hammering and splitting the stems open to assist root growth. At home, all the stems were placed in water held by a recycled clear plastic instant coffee jar placed beside the kitchen sink handle, in front of an eastern window that receives limited morning sun. The



water was changed every couple of days. On the 37th day following the purchase of these cuttings, ten of the twelve stems have roots and most have leaves. I hammered the remaining 2 stems this week to see if roots would be stimulated. Rooted stems will be transferred to five-inch-deep containers to allow further root development and easy transport by future buyers. Three starts will soon be planted in my yard. Every landowner should have a pussy willow planted away from any foundations. They grow quickly in full sun and acidic, moist soil. Branches may be cut in March from shrubs, pruned and maintained at six feet, for their fuzzy fat buds resembling tiny cat paws that quickly sprout indoors into bottle brush flowers. Some twigs will produce golden stamens and others will produce slender greenish pistils. Outdoors, the unpruned and short-lived shrubs can grow as a small tree or large shrub 15-25 feet high and should be cut close to the ground every two years to encourage new root shoots. The yellow flowers support native, bumble and honey bees' need for pollen and are larval hosts for Mourning Cloak and Viceroy butterflies.

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

National Garden Week

National Garden Week is June 7-13, 2026. We are all encouraged to plant red, white and blue flowers to celebrate our country's heritage. These plantings will be bright and cheerful and will make our gardening areas look festive.

Please send pictures of projects to Jan Warshauer, jwarshauer@aol.com. Include your City, State and the name of your club. We can use these pictures in future issues of the Review.

Jan Warshauer, Chair

Schools Being Held by NGC

Environmental School:

September 17 -1 8, 2026. Derby, CT. Virtual. Course 1.

Contact: Krista Fiorini,
kristafiorini@ctgardenclubs.org

August 4 – 6, 2026. FL. Virtual. Course 2.

Contact: Beverly Williams,
bevthepatriot@gmail.com

April 28 -29, 2026. Athens, GA. Virtual. Course 3.

Contact: Gale Thomas, *galedthomas@gmail.com*

May 26 – 27, 2026. Athens, GA. Virtual. Course 4.

Contact: Gale Thomas, *galedthomas@gmail.com*

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*

October 26 - 29, 2026. Raleigh, NC. Course 1.

Contact: Connie Goodson

May 19 – 22, 2026. Boca Raton, FL. Course 2.

Contact: TBD

April 18 – 22, 2026. Voorheesville, NY. Course 3.

Contact: Gail Berti, *chiara215@aol.com*

April 25 – 30, 2026. Milford, MA. Course 4.

Contact: Kathy Hawes, *kmh4383@gmail.com*

July 28 – 31, 2026. Bowling Green, KY. Course 4.

Contact: Mary Ann Hext, *mhex@outlook.com*

September 24 – 26, 2026. Poway, CA. Course 4.

Contact: Laura Crenshaw

October 6 - 8, 2026. Voorheesville, NY. Course 4.

Contact: TBD

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

Contact: Evie Matzke, *eviemat52@aol.com*

Gardening School:

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

Contact: Michelle Armstrong, *marmstrong@migardenclubs.org*



June 10 – 11, 2026. Spartanburg, SC. Course 4.

Contact: Karen Allen, *saludalake21@aol.com*

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

Contact: Michelle Armstrong,
marmstrong@migardenclubs.org

Landscape Design School:

April 23 – 24, 2026. Traverse, City, MI. Course 1.

Contact: Ronalee Polad, *rpolad@migardenclubs.org*

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

Contact: Paul Gilson, *pgilson@verizon.net*

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

Contact: Debbie Skaggs, *skaggs@scrtc.com*

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

Contact: Michele Wehrheim

April 27 – 28, 2026. Fairfax, VA. Hybrid. Course 4.

Contact: Debbie Wagaman, *lds@ncagardenclubs.org*

Multiple-Refreshers:

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

Contact: Sharon Richardson,
sharonrichardson22@gmail.com

Symposiums:

April 29 - 30, 2026. Olympia, WA.

Contact: Linda Maida, *sherrytom41@comcast.net*

May 12 - 13, 2026. Columbia, SC.

Contact: Linda Howle, *howlinda@yahoo.com*

June 19 - 21, 2026. Albuquerque, NM.

Contact: Suzy Andrego, *sandrego@aol.com*

August 11 - 12, 2026. Grand Haven, MI.

Contact: Sue Wittick, *witticks@gmail.com*

August 12 - 13, 2026. Birmingham, AL.

Contact: DeLaine Spencer, *delspen@aol.com*

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

Contact: Susan Throneberry,
sthronberry1@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 03 - 04, 2026. Milford, MA.

Contact: Kathy Hawes, *ycapella@comcast.net*



