

Landscape Design Council

Member: National Garden Clubs, Inc.
National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.

September, 2011

Volume 33, Number 1

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General Meeting Dates:

Sept. 14, 2011

Nov. 9, 2011

Feb. 8, 2012

Apr. 11, 2012

June 13, 2012

Deadline for next newsletter:

October 15, 2011

President's Message

Back to Basics

We're off to another great year in Landscape Design! Hopefully everyone weathered the storms and the quake with no difficulties. If your garden suffered any damage, hopefully our upcoming programs will give you new ideas to use.

"**Back to Basics**" is our theme for the next two years. We will focus on our "Purpose" as stated in the Bylaws:

- To increase knowledge by further study and activity
- To recognize good ecological and landscape design practices

We also assist NCAGC by providing:

- Informative programs on landscape design
- Evaluation of gardens
- Guidance in the preparation of landscape plans for community projects
- Encouragement and assistance to clubs planning NCAGC activities concerning landscape design

Jo Sellers, VP and Program Chairman, has some great programs lined up that will help us achieve these goals. For the September program, we welcome Herb Society of America member, Anna Reich. Anna is a native Australian who will talk to us about incorporating native Australian plants into our gardens!

It's been a pleasure to hear from so many of you this summer. I have so many great ideas to work with now. I'll have a handout at the (short) meeting and we can talk a little about our options for handling the committees from now on.

As a reminder – LDC meets on the second Wednesday of September, November, February, April and June (the picnic).

Karen O'Meara

September 14 Meeting:

HOSPITALITY FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING - Everyone please bring a sandwich or snack to the meeting. Bring coffee if you need it! We will have water, paper products, salads and desserts. Please let me know right away if you would like to supply a salad or dessert!
raykaren4334@cox.net or 703-281-4334.

We need a Hospitality Chair – If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Karen O’Meara
raykaren4334@cox.net or 703-281-4334.

Copies of *The Creative Garden* will be available for sale at the meeting. Supplies are low, and it will soon go into another printing, but if you want one now, we will have them there.

Upcoming Meetings

SEPTEMBER 14, 2011 ANNA REICH - AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS-INCORPORATING THEM INTO YOUR GARDEN

Anna can trace her Australian ancestors back to the FIRST FLEET. (which is like having your ancestor being on the ships that settled Jamestown, VA) Married to an American, she has lived here for 15 years. A member of the Herb Society of America she also is a docent at the Botanical Gardens and the National Herb Garden at the Arboretum.

NOVEMBER 9, 2011 CAROL OTTESEN - LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Carol has written a couple of gardening books as well as articles for gardening magazines.

FEBRUARY 8, 2012 BARBARA DEUTSCH - SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

Barbara is the executive director of the Landscape Architecture Foundation, a non-profit located in Washington, D.C.

APRIL 11, 2012 ANDREA OTTESEN - DR. JIM DUKE'S GARDEN

Adrea is the curator of Dr. Jim Duke's medicinal garden.

JUNE 13, 2012 ANNUAL PICNIC –Place to Be Announced

Jo Sellers

Refresher Alert

2011 IS THE YEAR when the following members **must** refresh to maintain their credentials and membership in the council:

Nancy McGlasson Jean Rositol

Feel free to contact me for further information and possible options.

Ellen M. Spencer, LDC Refresher Chairman
ellenmspencer@aol.com or (703) 759-7734

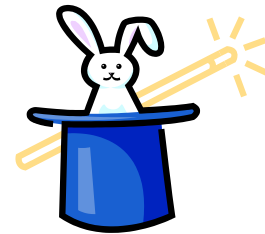
And for those who refreshed at the convention:

Thank You All! I have your LDC Refresher Cards and will bring them with me to distribute at the next LDC meeting on September 14.

Refreshing Consultants are:

Lisa Adelman
Jane Schriedekamp
Estelle Woodcock

Lana Halpern
Nancy Sorensen



Refreshing Master Consultants are:

Libby Coffey
Jeannie Brady Hill
Lois Noonan
Mary Ann Wren

Norma Hetrick
Ronnie Levay
Elaine Offutt

Ellen M. Spencer
LDC Refresher Chairman



Speakers Needed!

We need council members to sign up for the NCAGC Speakers bureau – only 3 listed so far on the web page. And I know all of you talk more than that. So if you like to talk about topics of interest to garden clubs, contact Karen O’Meara, or Pat Johnsen so that your name and presentation topics can be added to the list.

Karen O’Meara 703-281-4334 raykaren4334@cox.net
Pat Johnsen 703-978-6485 johnsen207@aol.com

Remember: This is a primary source of council income, so please be sure to sign up



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Landscape Design School



Course III, Series XIII
October 31-November 2, 2011
Agricultural History Farm Park
18410 Muncaster Rd.
Derwood, MD

Sponsored by:
The National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.
in cooperation with
The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.

Curriculum:



Color in the Landscape
Landscape Design Accessories
Landscape Design for Maintenance
Design on the Land--Regional Expression
Development of Landscape Architecture from 1840-1940
Introduction to Urban Design
Parks, Playgrounds, and Conservation Areas
Graphics Interpretation
Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Design



And Special Interest Topic: Trees in the new American University Arboretum

We have Wonderful Speakers lined up, so plan on joining us!

The registration form is on the NCAGC website ncagardenclubs.org – look under Package (President's Package) then go down to Landscape Design School. Or just contact Dianne Gregg or Paula Knepper for more information:

Dianne Gregg
301-299-6456

Paula Knepper
301-424-7582

glassnob@aol.com

pknepper@verizon.net

National Capital Area Garden Clubs LDS Co-Chairmen:

Register NOW - before you forget



An Invitation

Landscape Design Council Members
are invited to attend the
Council of Accredited Judges'
General Meeting
on **Wednesday, September 21, 2011**
at 10:30 a.m.
at the US Arboretum, in the Trailer
for a program by
John Peter Thompson on "Invasive Species"

Mr. Thompson is not only an expert on the subject, but is well recognized for his informative and entertaining programs on a subject that is sometimes less.

Boxtops for Education

Please continue to collect the Box Tops for Education for the Growing Green Dreams Project and send them to B.J. Sullivan. Send to:

B.J. Sullivan
1022 N. Pelham Street
Alexandria, VA 22304



Roving Reporter Northern/Midwest US

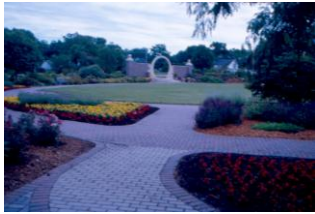
This year we headed north to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, drove west across the tops of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota; down through Iowa and completed the loop back to Maryland. We visited MANY waterfalls, enjoying an abundance of wildflowers along the woody paths and highways. A special treat was a cruise in Lake Superior along Pictured Rocks National Seashore, in Munising, Michigan.



Several famous authors', actors' and musicians' homes and museums were on our route (Mark Twain, Judy Garland, Sinclair Lewis, Meredith Wilson, Laura Ingalls Wilder and Buffalo Bill Cody)...And, of course, a few gardens!

Dow Gardens in Midland, Mich. was my favorite, with over 100 acres of rolling grounds....woods and open areas, a variety of sculptures and a great children's garden.





A nice surprise in Clear Lake, Iowa were the Central Gardens of North Iowa, a city block with shade garden, perennial beds, a green space with moon gate for events and celebrations and an herb and medicinal garden to come. A well-



designed building for classes and meetings was also on the property.



In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, we visited Bruce more estate and gardens, formerly of the Quaker Oats family, now National Trust property.....well worth the stop. And the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, with the largest collection of Grant Wood paintings in the country (not American Gothic, though; it's in the Chicago Art Institute!).



It was fun to see how roadside flowers changed as we progressed and the very attractive plantings at Michigan rest stops by the local Master Gardeners.

Many interesting Native American, Scandinavian, etc. Amish and Quaker things of interest have been left out in the interest of brevity, and to focus more on Landscape Design interests (ask me sometime). But, all in all, it was a most enjoyable trip.

Audrie Whitney

Maui's Trees

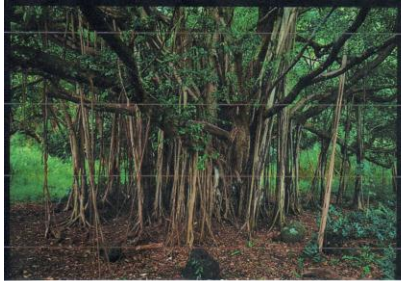


Maui is my second home and I love to frolic and bask in the flora all over the island, with the many trees flourishing in Maui's many microclimates. Maui has over seventy species of trees, including nine varieties of Palm. The flowering tropical varieties are awesome with their bright flowers and large leaves. But when I view the overall landscape, the stately Cook Pine (*Araucaria columnaris*) catches my eye. The Cook Pine is not a true pine at all, but closely related to the Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*). It has small scale-like leaves growing long twigs. Its crown grows in many shapes ranging from pyramids to straight



columns. One giant on the big island of Hawaii was 109 feet tall when last measured, but the species can grow to 200 feet. Native to New Caledonia and the isle of Pines, seeds first arrived on Hawaiian soil on Lana'i in the 1870s with the arrival of Captain Cook's flotilla. The specimens featured in the photo are growing on West Maui's northern shore at Kapalua, a microclimate with substantial rainfall. As might be expected, island residents use the Cook Pine as their Christmas tree and farmers grow these for that purpose.

My favorite individual tree on Maui is the *Ficus benghalensis* located in front of the harbor in downtown Lahaina, just two blocks from my condo. The Banyan Tree (Indian) puts



down aerial roots that create a maze of trunks. This tree currently covers half a city block and is the site for art shows, concerts and festivals. The Banyan Tree exudes character, with its individual shape, and its cool shady space for visitors on a warm day. Its long beards and extra legs make it a favorite spot for children to run and climb and myna birds gather there in the late afternoon.

Bette Lewis

English Garden Tour

In early June, I went on the **Maryland Federation tour of Northern England**, "Stately Homes and Gardens." Our first stop immediately after landing was Beth Chatto's beautiful renovation of a garden begun in 1060. Our base for five days was Cambridge within walking distance of the University. Next day, we experienced Bressingham and Helmingham Hall Gardens. Many hybrids have been developed at Bressingham where perennial borders abound with bloom. Helmingham has many room gardens with one containing plants grown in England before 1750.

On to Somerleyton Hall, a large mainly Victorian house and garden with a yew hedge maze dating from 1846. Lovely parterres and specimen trees and glasshouses surround the house. Then we went on to Houghton Hall with magnificent 18th century interiors and award winning gardens.



We saw a private garden, East Ruston Old Vicarage, containing many rare and unusual plants in a number of garden rooms. We were deeply moved when we visited the American Military Cemetery at Madingley and were proud to see how well our fallen are cared for and honored.

We saw Sandringham, the country retreat of Her Majesty the Queen, with its extensive gardens. It was a thrill walking through the rooms where the Royals enjoy their summer vacation and seeing the many personal family pictures and exquisite collections of treasures.



We saw the ancient ruins at Chesters Roman Fort and numerous remains of Hadrian's Wall. We traveled across the Pennine Hills, called the backbone of England, a wild landscape of open heather moors and peat lands. One of the highlights was Gresgarth, a wonderfully romantic garden, containing the best of Italian style and British plantmanship. The gardens include lavishly planted terraces leading down to a lake, wild and bog gardens, and large herbaceous borders!



Then on to a contemporary garden at Alnwick, a Jacobean mansion, and Belsay Hall, packed with an impressive array of shrubs and flowering perennials. Next we visited Castle Howard with world-famous collections of paintings, antiquities, bronzes, and tapestries.

The classical landscape offers spectacular views at every turn with temples, lakes, statues and fountains.

A visit to English gardens would not be complete without seeing the Royal Horticultural Society Garden which was teeming with blooming perennials and annuals, flowering trees and shrubs. Then we went on to see Scampston Hall where 'Capability' Brown's landscape included lakes and traditional gardens.



We thought we had seen it all until we arrived at Chatsworth House and garden, home of the Dukes of Devonshire, with precious collections of art and antiquities. The famous waterworks there include the twenty-four steps of the 300-year-old Cascade, falling 200 yards down a hill. There was also a huge maze, a rose, cottage, and kitchen garden, and a new sensory garden.

On the way to the airport, would you believe we saw another 'stately home', Benington Lordship. There were herbaceous borders in a riot of bloom and a working kitchen garden with globe artichokes galore.

When Maryland says they are having a 'garden tour'--it is surely every bit that!

Libby Coffey

Costa Rica and Illinois

In July, Anne Bucher and I spent a week in Costa Rica. We stayed in this awesome house near Jaco that had an infinite pool with a view of the rain forest and the Pacific Ocean. However, to get to this dream home we had a 4 mile drive up the mountain on this narrow clay/dirt road with switchbacks out of your worst nightmare. Needless to say, we didn't drive down for dinner and back in the dark. (Anne did all the driving.) We took an aerial tram ride over the rain forest canopy. The tram had been built with materials brought in by helicopters so that a road didn't need to be built, which would have disturbed the rain forest. We also had a tour of the medicine plant garden and the Heliconia Flower Gallery.

Sorry there are not photos, as on the second day of the trip while walking along the Pacific Ocean, the undertow got me and I took an unexpected dip in the ocean. My camera was in my pocket. Luckily before the death of my camera I had taken a trip back to Illinois for a family reunion where I did take photos of this wonderful English garden. My sister lives in Rockford, Illinois and the photos are from her neighbor's yard.



Jo Sellers

Miscellaneous Other Information

Huge Flat Flowers - Easy-to-Grow Japanese Iris

If your garden has a moist area which also gets full sun and you want 3-foot tall, beautiful 6-8 inch flat flowers that bloom in July, here is a delight you can add to your garden: Japanese Water (or Ensata) iris.

Japanese irises require ample moisture, especially up to bloom time. They will do very well beside a stream or a pond, but in cold climates they may suffocate or rot under ice in the winter. Or just give them extra water in your regular garden.

Soil Requirements: Japanese irises prefer a heavy, rich soil with ample organic matter, especially composted cow manure or peat. If the soil is clay--remove some of it, the addition of the organic matter will help to loosen it. The soil pH should be acidic, ideally between 5.0 and 6.5. There is evidence that Japanese iris will tolerate a wider pH range, but growth and bloom will not be as good.

Planting: Plant strong divisions of two to three fans. The roots should not be allowed to dry out during transplanting. Soaking the rhizomes and roots in water overnight before transplanting is beneficial. The rhizome should be planted 2 to 3 inches deep, depending on the heft of the soil. If planted in a depression of 3 to 4 inches, the depression will help to catch and hold more moisture.

Dig out clay and replace with rotted cow manure (bagged) and rich top soil. Planting instructions come with any plants you order from Ensata Gardens (at www.ensata.com or 269.665.7500), as well as more detailed information on that site.

Since new roots form above the old roots,



'Kimono Silk' Japanese Water Iris,
www.ensata.com

planting in a depression will permit the gradual filling in of more soil, manure and compost to help maintain the plant's vigor for a longer period of time. After planting, keep the soil moist until the plant is established. The equivalent of 1

inch of rain per week will keep them doing well in most soils. *Do not fertilize until established after a growing season.*

Time of Planting: Japanese iris can be planted almost any time from spring until fall, but spring is probably best because it gives the plants sufficient time to establish new roots for good bloom the next season.

Mulching: After planting, a heavy mulch of 2 inches is beneficial to help conserve moisture or prevent heaving over the winter.

Fertilizing: Japanese iris are *heavy* feeders. A liberal application of a balanced fertilizer, such as 12-12-12, in spring and just before blooming is beneficial. Weak plants showing light green foliage will be invigorated with a bi-weekly foliar and drench application of a water soluble acid fertilizer. If you want to give them OPTIMAL conditions, alternate every two weeks with **Miracle Gro**, and extra water. These gorgeous flowers are welcome additions to the late summer garden!

Nancy Burns

In case Libby's account of the last trip got you wanting to travel, MFGC is going to

Enchanting Portugal Magical Gardens, Palaces, Castles, and Fantastic Vistas April 16-29, 2012

The Portuguese garden absorbed many design motifs from all over the world, be it from the Moors, from the Italian's Renaissance gardens or the French Baroque style. But they concentrated on their own indigenous design resources. Three elements stand out as distinctly Portuguese in design: Azulejos, ornamental or representational tiles, terraced pools and finally a special kind of box parterre design.

This tour will visit:

Lisbon with windswept vistas that reveal the city in all of its beauty. Roman and Moorish ruins, white domed cathedral, palaces, grand plazas lined with sun-drenched cafes, world class shopping, great food and charming neighbourhoods.

There will be a guided tour of the Gulbenkian Museum, the Jardim Museu Agricola Tropical, the nearby Jardim Botanico da Ajuda – founded in 1772 as the Royal Botanic Garden, then travel to Jardim do Palacio Nacional de Queluz, then on to the Palacio do Marques de Pombal with French and Rococo style gardens, arriving in Sintra, set between Lisbon and the coast.

“Sintra with its rippling mountains, dewy forests thick with fern and lichen, exotic gardens and glittering places, is like a page torn from a fairy tale.” We will visit the Palacio Pena for a tour of the apartments and the park, followed by a visit to the gardens of Monserrate Park surrounding a neo-oriental palace built in the 18th century. The gardens were created as a series of gardens representing different areas of the world: Australia, Mexico and Japan.

We will then visit Obidos, a pretty walled medieval town surrounded by a classic crenulated wall (wavy), Alcobaca, a pleasant little town which yields centre stage to the magnificent 12 th century Mosterio de Sante Mario de Alcobaca, one of Portugal's most easily accessible Unesco World Heritage sites, and is famous for its local blue pottery. Nazare has narrow, cobbled lanes running down to the wide cliff-backed beach and is one of the most picturesque seaside and fishing ports. A visit to the Batalhal Monastery and its architectural masterpiece of Portugal's Gothic and Manueline art culture rounds out the morning. We then have a sightseeing tour of Coimbra's university and the terraced botanical garden, and end in Porto, the ancient city that gave its name to both Port wine and to the nation of Portugal. After

a tour of the town and lunch, we will take a trip on the Douro by traditional port wine barge with port served as we travel the river. We will then go to Casa de Mateus. One of the most magnificent Baroque sites in Europe is that of the Count of Vila Real. The garden and elaborately ornamented baroque mansion is situated about 2 miles southeast of the village of Vila Real. This is the home of the famous Portuguese rose wine.

Next comes a visit to the gardens of Casa de Santar and the Bussaco National Forest, as well as Conimbriga Roman Peristyle Garden in Coimbra. Our Farewell dinner will be at our delightfully ostentatious king's palace of a hotel. We'll enjoy a sumptuous five course banquet composed of regional specialities and the famous Bussaco wine.

Of course this brief description of the tour doesn't do it justice, so for more information, contact Karen Offutt at karenoffutt1@gmail.com.

Speaker

Ned Tillman spoke at our garden club today on the environment, sustainability and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. It was an excellent presentation. He has also written a book on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. He does books, talks and walks. There are two websites on his card. www.growthadventures.org and www.TheChesapeakeWatershed.com
Ned Tillman, 443-472-3681, nedtillman@growthadventures.org

He would be a good program for a garden club or Landscape Design Council program.

Margye Hixson

From the Trade:

We got a quick peek of the new line of 'G' that HGTV is working on with the Agricola Management Group: The HGTV HOME Plant Collection. They will begin rolling out nationally an HGTV-branded line of plants for 2012—everything from annuals and perennials to shrubs and sod.

Why? Well, according to their data, 95% of consumers are familiar with the HGTV brand and 5 million people visit their website each month, so there's name recognition and a consumer base that can translate into cash in the register.

Oh, the best-named new product award has to go to **Crapsules**, from GSI Homestyles, which, as Ellen says you can guess by the name, are capsules filled with poop from various sources, including fish and bats.

Sandi Smith Piccirillo

And for a bit of whimsy

Garden Madness! *Healthy Pastime or All-Consuming Passion?*

This piece on 'Normal Gardeners' (**NG**) versus 'Obsessed Gardeners' (**OG**) offers guidelines for determining which side of the perennial bed you fall into. I know I'm not Normal; what about you?

NG: You won't leave town when your tulips are in bloom...

OG: ... or your daffodils, your azaleas, your lilacs, your roses, your clematis, your hydrangeas ...

NG: You invest in fine gardening tools.
OG: You keep spare tools in your car for gardening emergencies.

NG: You have a compost heap.
OG: You take its temperature every day.

NG: You know the Latin names of your plants.
OG: You use them in conversation.

NG: You have given vegetables to your friends.
OG: You have broken into stranger's cars and filled them with zucchini.

NG: You can crush a Japanese beetle with your bare hands.
OG: You love the sound it makes when you do.

NG: You have dirt under your fingernails.
OG: What fingernails?

NG: You've had a soil test.
OG: You studied for it.

NG: Someone says you have Plant Acquisition Syndrome.
OG: You take it as a compliment.

NG: You buy well-composted cow manure to top-dress your garden.
OG: You buy a cow.

NG: You teach your children the wonders of gardening.
OG: You forgot to have children.

NG: You love gardening more than anything ...
OG: ... and you hate gardening more than anything (sometimes!).



From the Newsletter Editor:

Please remember to send me information for the next newsletter. Many of you have taken or will be taking some interesting trips this summer or fall, so **please send information and pictures for the Roving Reporter**. Folks do like to know about places they haven't been, or updates on places they have been but perhaps not recently. And we do like **Other Information**. So Share!

Information for the next newsletter is due October 15, 2011. But please send it any time, not wait until the due date. And remember – if you don't send it, I can't include it.

My e-mail is: pknepper@verizon.net. I hope to hear from you.

Now that it has cooled down, it is time to enjoy getting back out in the garden while you can!

