



# NCAGC *In the Know* September 2025

September is our kick-off month of Garden Club activities!

The reimagined *The Capital Gardener* is fabulous and links to both the mp4 (video) and pdf are available in the Newsletter section of our website: [ncagardenclubs.org](http://ncagardenclubs.org)!

Thank you to Connie Taylor and to all our members who have sent their appreciation! Our next edition will be out January 15, 2026!

A lot of content is re-running in this edition from August as many of us have been away. We look forward to seeing you at this month's District Meetings and the NCAGC State meeting on Tuesday, September 30th! Dr. Olsen, Director of the Arboretum is our presenter. Come learn with us, meet new friends, plan for our 75th Anniversary, play some trivia and win prizes!

- President Danielle Brabazon

## In this Issue:

[Upcoming NCAGC Events](#)

[NCAGC Chair/Council](#)

[Judges Council](#)

[Did you know - history](#)

[Awards Chair](#)

[Fern Valley](#)

[Youth Chair](#)

[Upcoming Affiliate Events](#)

[Sponsors](#)

[NCAGC website information](#)



## September District Meetings

**September 5, 2025** District IV  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm  
St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old  
Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD

**September 12, 2025** District II  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm  
River Farm

**September 19, 2025** District I  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Shirley Nicolai's home  
Details in District I Newsletter  
Program by Alice Ferguson Foundation

**September 25, 2025** District III  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Meadowlark Botanical Gardens  
9750 Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna  
Program on Vultures

Reminder that donations to: Fern Valley, Friendship Garden, President's Project, Scholarship and Washington Youth Garden are made out to NCAGC and mailed to  
NCAGC Assistant Treasurer  
Janet Hazelbaker  
6211 Sudley Church Court  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-1225

**Monthly President's Meeting - October 2025**

**We will see you at the District Meetings and NCAGC State Meeting!!!!**

 **DC STATE FAIR**

Chairs: Laura Flicker and Elspeth Payne

On Saturday, September 6, 2025 NCAGC will be sponsoring a table at the DC State Fair. DC State Fair is an organization in Washington, D.C., that is culturally analogous to state fairs elsewhere in the United States. The 16th annual DC State Fair is a celebration of the District's agricultural, culinary, and artistic talents. The event features contests, local vendors, live music, kids' activities, and more. The Fair will be held at the intersection of Byrant St. NE and Rhode Island Ave. (Metro stop: Rhode Island Ave)

Please join Laura, Elspeth, 1st VP Joyce and President Danielle - sign up for a shift! Email Laura Flicker at [ljflicker@aol.com](mailto:ljflicker@aol.com)

Shift times:  
9:30 am - 11:30 am (involves set up)  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm (involves clean up)

The table representing the NCAGC will be an educational theme on propagating table scraps and our giveaway will be seed packets with a label sharing about NCAGC. The book Don't Throw it. Grow It! by Deborah Peterson & Millicent Selsam, Storey Publishing 2008 is the inspiration for the activity. We hope to provide a plant propagation demonstration (in 2024 we did a seed ball making demonstration)

Morning of Design  
Hosted by District III and Judges Council  
10:00 am  
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3810 Meredith Dr  
Additional details coming soon....

**Landscape Design School - HYBRID**

Course 3 coming October 27 & 28th  
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3810 Meredith Dr  
Or Zoom

Brochure/Registration coming soon  
Please email our chair, Sylvia Sloan at [lds@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:lds@ncagardenclubs.org)

**Gardening School - HYBRID**

Course 1 coming November 17 & 18th  
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3810 Meredith Dr  
Or Zoom

Brochure/Registration coming soon  
Please email our chair, Connie Richards at [gs@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:gs@ncagardenclubs.org)

Gardening, Environmental and Landscape Design schools are a great way to meet new people and deepen your education. Please join us!

**Symposium**

These courses are primarily intended for Flower Show Judges to maintain their credentials, but all garden club members interested in learning more about flower shows, floral design and horticulture are encouraged to attend.

All NGC Accredited Flower Show Judges are required to attend NGC Symposiums in order to remain in Good Standing.

## The Judges Council: Supporting Flower Shows Every Step of the Way

The Judges Council is here to support garden clubs in creating successful, well-organized flower shows that celebrate horticultural excellence and creativity. Whether you're planning your first show or refining an annual tradition, we can offer guidance and expertise from start to finish.

Our council judges believe that flower shows should be inspiring, educational, and enjoyable for everyone involved. We can assist with every stage of the process—from theme selection, schedule preparation, and staging logistics to classification and clerking. We are also happy to provide advice on horticulture and design classes, educational exhibits, and proper show etiquette.

When show day arrives, our judges are committed to providing fair judging that encourages growth and excellence in horticulture and floral design.

If your club is planning a flower show, we'd love to help. Let us work with you to make it a rewarding and memorable event. Contact us at [jc@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:jc@ncagardenclubs.org)

Arlene Stewart, Judges Council President

President Brabazon  
needs your help!

Do you like throwing parties?

Do you know local vendors?

Please join the 75th Anniversary  
planning committee!

Email

[president@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:president@ncagardenclubs.org)

NCAGC  
History  
Did you know....!

The first Blue Star  
Memorial Marker  
was.....

Belvoir



Former NCAGC President (2013-2015) David Healy recently underwent bypass surgery in California. He is on his way to recovery but I am sure would enjoy hearing from us!

David Healy  
2067 Normandy Court  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

## Planting the Future: We Want to Hear from You!

Have you thought about how your club might incorporate NCAGC's theme of *PLANT AMERICA – Seeding Our Future*?

### Share Your Stories and Inspire Others

We are collecting stories, milestones, and memories of youth-focused programs from clubs across the DMV area. Whether your club has a rich history of youth engagement or you are just beginning to sprout new ideas, your input is essential!

### Haven't completed your club's Youth Activities Survey yet?

There's still time! Please take a few minutes to share your past activities or upcoming plans by completing the survey at this [LINK](#). Your stories will help celebrate our collective legacy and inspire fresh energy for youth involvement statewide.

### Looking Ahead: Plant Seeds for the Next Generation

As you plan your club's upcoming year, consider including a youth initiative on your calendar. Participating in NGC youth contests—such as poetry, sculpture, or the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl poster contest—offers young people a fun, meaningful way to connect with environmental stewardship.

### Need Inspiration? Try These Youth Gardening Projects

- Start or support a school pollinator garden
- Host a "Garden Day" at a local library or community center
- Organize a seed-starting or composting workshop for kids

Looking for more ideas or support? Visit the new Youth Activities section on the NCAGC website or reach out to me directly. I'm here to help your club grow successful youth programs!

Let's plant seeds of inspiration today and cultivate tomorrow's environmental stewards—together.

Come Grow with Us,  
Cheryl St. Amant  
NCAGC Youth Activities Chair

## National Capital Area Gardens Clubs Awards 2025-2026

It is not too early to take a look at the NCAGC awards categories and consider applying for one. Not sure where to start? Have a look at your newsletters from the winter and spring. Because the awards cycle follows the calendar year you don't have to wait for your fall activities to begin.

Detailed award information is available to all NCA clubs on the website: [ncagardenclubs.org](http://ncagardenclubs.org). More information is better than not enough! Looking at the requirements now will allow you time to gather all the important information and photos.

I am hosting a **Q&A sessions on August 14th at 4pm and September 18th at 7pm on Zoom**. Club and District Awards Chairs and anyone else with awards questions are invited to attend. Zoom links will follow

Applications for all awards (except for the three below) should be submitted to [awards@ncagardenclub.org](mailto:awards@ncagardenclub.org) by the **November 1** deadline.

Yearbook, Newsletter (and other publications), and Perennial Bloom applications are due **October 1** to your District Awards Chair.

Monica Ansel  
NCA Awards Chair  
404-277-2318

[awards@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:awards@ncagardenclubs.org)

## Fern Valley Workday's

Chair Dawn Reynolds-Olson is working on establishing workdays at the Arboretum starting in September.

Tuesday, Sept 16, 10am-12:30pm

Tuesday, Oct 14, 10am-12:30pm

Friday, Oct 17, 10am-12:30pm

Friday, Nov 7, 10am-12:30pm

Please let her know if you interested in helping! Tools supplied and the task will range from pulling ivy, weeding and planting.

[fernvalley@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:fernvalley@ncagardenclubs.org)

NCAGC has staffed the Front Desk at the Arboretum Visitor Center a few times.

If you might be interested in learning more email [Danielle](mailto:Danielle).

Thank you Fred, Christopher and Beth for your time in July and August.

# FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

5:30 - 9:30pm

29TH ANNUAL

DINNER UNDER THE STARS



## 2025 CAR-SGC Annual Conference & Tri-Refresher

October 19-22, 2025

Maryland: "America in Miniature"

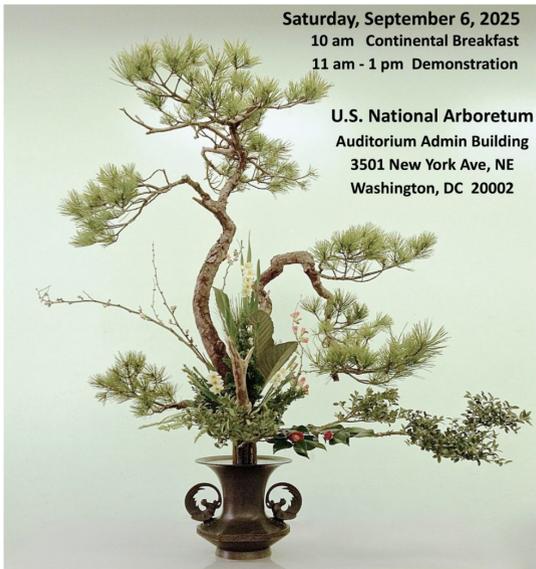
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay  
100 Heron Boulevard at Route 50  
Cambridge, MD 21613



Presents a DEMONSTRATION featuring PROFESSOR NORITAKA NODA

Saturday, September 6, 2025  
10 am Continental Breakfast  
11 am - 1 pm Demonstration

U.S. National Arboretum  
Auditorium Admin Building  
3501 New York Ave, NE  
Washington, DC 20002



Tickets available August 1, 2025: [iichapter1.com](http://iichapter1.com)

Ikebana International Fall Exhibit at the U.S. National Arboretum

October 9 through October 19 from 10 am - 4 pm



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Free Demonstrations Oct 12, 18, 19 at 1:00 pm  
Go to [iichapter1.com](http://iichapter1.com) for more information



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Laura Quirk

Member of Red Hill Garden Club

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Visit my website [www.RoyalGlobalTravel.com](http://www.RoyalGlobalTravel.com)  
email me at [RoyalGlobalTravelInfo@gmail.com](mailto:RoyalGlobalTravelInfo@gmail.com)

Welcome Royal Global Travel!  
NCAGC Newest Sponsor!  
Thank you Laura Quirk!!!!

Please check out our Installation Event Tier 1 Sponsors - just click 😊

[Ashby Jewelers Website](#)

[Bosque, LLC](#)

[Chesapeake Natives Website](#)

[Soleado Lavender Farm's website](#)

[Baird - The Graham Watt Group](#)

[Brandywine Growers](#)

FXTaylor Associates, LLC

[Springsong Museum](#)

Others who Sponsored our Installation: Burke Lawn Care Merrifield Garden Center



***We have a new and exciting website!***

<http://www.ncagardenclubs.org>

***Please enjoy looking around and seeing all the changes!***

Your thoughts and suggestions are very welcome -  
please send them to: [webmaster@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:webmaster@ncagardenclubs.org)

These instructions were shared with me by Aspen Hill Garden Club. I am sharing them forward as I find it helpful to hear what works for others. If you are having issues with a login, please reach out to [webmaster@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:webmaster@ncagardenclubs.org) or Anne Dremluk at [communications@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:communications@ncagardenclubs.org)

- Danielle

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SIGNING INTO THE UPDATED NCAGC WEBSITE

1. If you have not logged in yet, the login box will appear as shown in the green top bar.
2. Click the Login box and **type your email address**. *Very important! Just type in your email address. Ignore all prompts to sign in using Google or Facebook.*
3. **Use the email your garden club knows you by and submit a password**. This process will not be instantaneous. (It may take several hours, or up to a day.) *This process was almost instantaneous for me. You will receive a code in your email. You must enter the confirmation code into a box at the new website. I received the confirmation code within 20 seconds of typing in a password. See point 5 below for new members...*
4. At this point, you can still visit all of the website, except the "Members Resources" section.
5. **If you are a relatively new NCAGC member you will have to sign in and provide a password, and your account will be approved by a human!** It may take several days. Just scroll down the "Welcome!" page (or click on Explore More) and find the Member Resources tile, and follow the same procedure as above.
6. OK! Now you are [probably almost] in!! But we can still look at ALL of the web site (except for Member Resources). You can stop at any time, but if you have left it open for a while, you may need to refresh your page. Just click the backward circling arrow at the very top of your screen.

Please clear your cache and cookies if you are having problems with the redesigned website

***Clubs, please look at your club's information on the District pages. If you have a Logo, please share.***

Does your club have a newsletter? Do you create promotional materials? Reach out to Anne Dremluk, accessing our State's Canva Pro account!

[communications@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:communications@ncagardenclubs.org)

We have a new Zoom Help volunteer! Bill Stratton is a member of the Woodmoor Garden Club and will help you access the State's Zoom account. All credentials are the same so if you have accessed the account, you should be able to access again. If there is a conflict on the Zoom account, then there is a Google Meets account you can use. We are happy to help if there are any questions! Reach out to Bill at

[zoomhelp@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:zoomhelp@ncagardenclubs.org)