

SUMMER 2023 ONLINE EXTRAS



# *Garden Gateways*

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*Thank You For Visiting the*  
**ONLINE EXTRAS**  
*of the 2023 Summer Edition of*  
*Garden Gateways*

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## Peggy Harper Riggins 2023 Award of Merit Recipient

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Presenting the Award of Merit (left to right) Peggy Tucker, Diana Malone, Peggy Harper Riggins and Barbara Bourque.

The 2023 Garden Club of Georgia Award of Merit was presented to Peggy Harper Riggins of Jesup, Georgia at the 2023 Garden Club of Georgia Convention on April 19, 2023.

“The Award of Merit is the highest non-member award offered by GCG. A gold medallion is presented to an individual or group for outstanding service or accomplishments of widespread importance in civic beautification, horticulture, conservation, or other allied garden and community activities.”

Peggy Harper Riggins was presented the Award of Merit for her dedication and outstanding leadership in conservation in Wayne County and the state of Georgia, and for her work with “No Ash at All”.

## Become an NGC School Consultant

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National Garden Club, Inc. (NGC) offers many educational opportunities for its members and the public. These opportunities range from YouTube videos and Zoom sessions to NCG schools for members. There are also four NCG schools that are designed for “offering members and non-members the art and science” of Gardening, Environmental, Landscape and Flower Show Schools. Completion of the Gardening, Environment and Landscape Schools offers a consultant’s status, while Flower Show School is for those seeking to become flower show judges. This article will focus on Gardening, Environmental and Landscape School Consultants.

Using content established by NGC, courses are taught in a four-part series to provide education about horticulture, our earth’s land, water, and air, and good practices for land use. These courses may be offered various ways, in-person, virtually, or hybrid, and participants are not restricted to taking classes in their state of residency. Although all three school’s courses are open to the public, the consultant status is limited to garden club members and requires successful completion of all courses and exams of the specific school. Receiving consultant status in all three schools gives one a GCG Tri-Consultant status, which is a great achievement.

Within each state there are school consultant councils. With the successful completion of a school’s four courses, GCG members can join the specific GCG Gardening, Environmental, or Landscape Consultants Council. While this status is not a professional one, it does allow one to be eligible to serve as a judge of garden club or council events, including flower show displays, awards and other contests. Each council is designed to provide additional educational opportunities (including programs and tours) for its members.

GCG is embarking on expanding the opportunities for the NGC Gardening, Environmental and Landscape Schools in our state. Upcoming classes will be offered in-person, virtual, and hybrid formats across the state. As courses are developed and approved, members will be notified by email and courses will be posted on the GCG and NGC websites.

To learn more about the NGC schools, please visit the NCG website at <https://gardenclub.org/our-schools> .





# Landscape Design 101 - Part One

## Functionality First

- by **Suzanne Finger**



I once had a landscape architecture professor who would pitch a tent on a client's property and spend an entire day and night before designing anything. I wholeheartedly agreed with his insistence that one must thoroughly "know" the land before working with it. That being said, you won't find me in a tent! Getting to know the land is just fine, but not the bugs or night critters that could crawl in the tent with me!

Understanding the existing conditions is essential; however, over the last twenty years, I've observed that defining the site's functionality is crucial to a successful design. Exploring the importance of functionality in the landscape will be the focus of the first article in a series of four that will attempt to tackle landscape design basics. Following "Functionality First" will be an article on the structure of a good landscape design. The third issue will focus on plant selection and incorporating color and texture. Finally, a wrap-up article will share tricks of the trade in making your landscape shine.

Landscape design at its best, is a process of many carefully thought-out layers, designed and applied individually, one on top of the next, to reveal a final design that is both functional and beautiful. A beautiful but not functional landscape is like having a pretty, new dress that doesn't fit quite right. This is why the first article will explore the following three questions: How will the landscape be used? How will the landscape be viewed or experienced? And finally, how will the landscape be maintained? If these three questions are clearly answered before the design work begins, the foundation has been laid for a beautiful and enjoyable landscape. The first layer is tied to understanding how the landscape will be used so that the design provides for that use efficiently and attractively. For example, if you want visitors to come to your front door, the landscape must be designed to lead them there. If these three questions are clearly answered before the design work begins, the foundation has been laid for a beautiful and enjoyable landscape. The first layer is tied to understanding how the landscape will be used so that the design provides for that use efficiently and attractively. For example, if you want visitors to come to your front door, the landscape must be designed to lead them there.

The next question that informs the design is how the landscape will be viewed or experienced. It matters how you experience the landscape daily. Outside your home or driving by, you usually appreciate your landscape while in motion. In contrast, while you are in the house looking out, you are likely enjoying a more static perspective. These simple differences should impact your landscape design in a major way.

Lastly, we will discuss the importance maintenance plays in the design of a successful landscape plan. It is possible that you employ a staff of gardeners to rival the queen. A new perennial bed is planted by the wave of your white-gloved hand and refreshed nightly if needed before you hear bagpipes playing on the front lawn. However, if you are like me and have a crazy-lady, long-sleeved, blue jean outfit topped off with a floppy straw hat, specially reserved for mowing your lawn, and the only response to your waved hand is a honk from Aunt Betty as she passes by to pick up Pookie from the groomer, you understand the importance of the topic of maintenance! Designing with a clear understanding of the level of maintenance that will be employed on the site is essential to a successful plan. Join me in the first issue of Landscape Design as we walk through these three questions together and learn the importance of Functionality First.

*Look for more information on the first installment of this four part course in the Fall issue of Garden Gateways.*

## Milledgeville Garden Club celebrated "Garden Week in Georgia"

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Pictured are MGC Hostesses (L/R) Terriessa Barman, Shirley O'Quinn, Kalea Buchanan, Nelanie McAfee, Speaker' Staci Catron, and Collene Dalrymple.

It was a bright sunny day as The Milledgeville Garden Club celebrated "Garden Week in Georgia" at Rose Hill in Lockerly Arboretum. Following delicious refreshments by our hostesses, a slide presentation on the "Cherokee Garden Library Collection" was presented by Director' Staci Catron.

## Long Lost Treasures Unearthed in Avondale Estates Attic

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Nancy Drew would have loved it. Found, in a dimly lit attic of a nearly 100-year-old house in Avondale Estates, a box with long-forgotten books.

The current owners of the circa 1928 house at 101 Clarendon Avenue, Sarah and Matt Miller, were intrigued. They carried the dusty box downstairs, and discovered two yearbooks from 1938-1939 and 1939-1940. Wiping away the dust, they realized the small, paper-bound books chronicled the work of the Avondale Estates Garden Club, founded in 1931 and one of the oldest garden clubs in the state.

Although the books must have been left behind by a previous homeowner, the Millers knew they would be treasured by local historians. Ms. Miller contacted a friend, Michele Spears, who is a member of the Avon Garden Club. Ms. Spears took them to a DeKalb Federation meeting and passed them along to Avondale Estate Garden Club President Peggy Burgess.



Garden Club of Avondale Estates President Patricia Calcagno, left, and immediate past president Peggy Burgess, right, present Cherokee Garden Club Director Staci Catron historic yearbooks from 1938-39 and 1939-40.

Mrs. Burgess, who ended her two-year term as president in March, knew exactly where the book belonged. The Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta Historical Society is the repository of the club's history, and Staci Catron, Cherokee Garden Library Director, was thrilled as well.

In one of the last events of Mrs. Burgess's two-year term, she and incoming President Patricia Calcagno, presented the historic books to the library on March 10 to become part of the permanent archives – and protected from the dust and heat of any more attics.



## Restoring Blue Star Veteran Historical Marker

Members of the Magnolia and Cherokee Garden Clubs and Woodman of the World met to witness the restoration of the Blue Star Marker located on Veterans Parkway North in front of Colony Bank. This marker was installed and sponsored by Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., Magnolia Garden Club and Cherokee Garden Club sixteen years ago. Therefore, weathering and fading made it difficult to read the message that honors service men and women who have served, are serving or will be serving in the armed services of the United States past, present, and future. In 1944, the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. adopted the program installing many markers throughout the state of Georgia and across the United States. Thomas L. Stelling traveled from Dayton Beach, Florida to restore the Blue Star Marker on Veterans Parkway.



Tom Stelling restoring Blue Star Marker located on Veterans Parkway North.



(L-R) Myra Dykes, Barbara Jones, Joyce Berg, Faye Rowe, Peggy Boozer, Mary Whitfield, Members Magnolia and Cherokee Clubs, Tom Stelling's Marker Restorer, Jim Soos, Ann Foster, Julie Johnston, Shari Dorminey, and Karen Cooper Members of Woodman of the World.