

GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA
38TH ANNUAL NATIONAL AFFAIRS & LEGISLATION CONFERENCE



First, a little background....

The purpose of the Conservation Committee is to keep the GCA membership well informed on current conservation issues; to promote respect for natural resources and responsibility for environmental stewardship; to encourage clubs to identify and carry out conservation work locally; to provide environmental education programs for youth and the general public; and with the Executive Board's approval, to work with other conservation agencies and organizations whose programs complement those of The Garden Club of America. The Conservation Committee works closely with the National Affairs and Legislation Committee. The Conservation/NAL committee zone representatives carry the work of both committees to the clubs in their zones.

The National Affairs and Legislation (NAL) Committee keeps the GCA membership current on federal policy initiatives that relate to the GCA's mission; identifies advocacy opportunities based on the GCA's Position Papers; and plans and executes the annual NAL Conference in Washington, D.C

Throughout this document, there are links to the GCA website. Remember, you must sign into the membership area to access this information.

Here is the GCA link on the History of NAL:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members/nal#resourceid=736>

Here is a link to the Conservation Committee's quarterly publication, **ConWatch**, where many of last year's NAL presenters wrote articles for the latest edition:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:publications/publicationdetails/pid/847>

These articles contain much of the information covered in the 2020 NAL conference.

This is an amazing resource!

Here is the link to the NAL conference page; please watch the short video and peruse all the information offered such as information on the speakers, further suggested reading, as well as position papers and the What We're Watching chart. GCA always does a tremendous job of providing online resources for us:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members/nal-conference>



When it comes to legislative advocacy, it is crucial to remember that the GCA is a bipartisan group with a history of advocacy, and we speak for all corners of the USA. The GCA is reasonable and welcomed by all lawmakers. Moving forward together is the goal.

To learn how a bill becomes a law, go to the “Understanding the Legislative Process” section on this webpage. Scroll down to “Understanding the US Congress.”

To learn how to advocate, watch Cabell’s video and go to the “All About Advocacy” section on this webpage.