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Director's Message

Happy Summer

As I sit here writing, my air conditioners are running non-stop. We no longer can say we haven't had a hot summer. Now we need some rain, Guess we're never satisfied! With all the heat, flowers seem to be lush and full of blossoms.

Clubs are having garden tours, County Day events, and luncheons. It has been such fun going to these events and meeting so many members and friends. It's hard to believe that some of the clubs in District III have been Federated for 60, 70, and 80 years. Just stop and think about how many flower shows have been staged, luncheons attended and flower beds weeded during those years.

It is hoped that many will attend the 60th State Fall Conference at the Otesaga in Cooperstown September 13-15. The events planned sound wonderful. And

it is such a pretty area. If you can't go for the entire conference, go for just a day or part of a day. You won't regret it.

Back to the chipmunk saga. Well, the little creature knows how to grow pansies. The ones I planted that he had eaten nearly to the roots have been just gorgeous. I'm not nearly as upset about him as I was at the time. I have been told that it is best to cut all blossoms off when we plant both our annuals and perennials. I've never done it, as I feel bad cutting off the pretty blossoms.

Knee: A device for finding stones in our gardens. Gardening is a sport. Hoe for it.

Head Weed,

Marie

Save the date

Third District Fall Meeting

Learn more
page 7

October Odyssey

Date: Thursday, October 28

Time: Registration—9 a.m.

General Meeting—10 a.m.

Luncheon—12:15 p.m.

Program—1:30 p.m.

Place: Pegasus Restaurant, 10885 Rte.9W, Coxsackie

Featured presenter:

Cathy Miller

Mountain Top Arboretum

The Mountain Top Arboretum in Tannersville was established in 1977 by the Ahrens family on seven acres of land. Now a non-profit corporation, it has grown to encompass 23 acres, situated 2,400 feet above sea level in the Catskill Mountains. Its collections focus on trees (including 50 different species of conifers), shrubs and wildflowers, both native and exotic, that adapt well to the rigorous climate in this type of area.

There are three main walking trails, the East and West Meadow trails and the Woodland Walk. The paths are difficult for strollers and wheelchairs because of the soft surfaces. Each self-guided walk can take 20-35 minutes. There are informative signs to read, and an audio tour is available.

The arboretum is open dawn to dusk year-round, and admission is free. There are many events and workshops scheduled throughout the summer. For directions and other information visit the arboretum's website: www.mtarboretum.or.

Janet Wierzchowski

Parallel Design

Definition: Three or more groupings of plant material placed in a strong parallel manner in a single container or base. If multiple containers are used, they must be situated to appear to be one unit. The direction may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal.

The groupings do not have to be the

same height, nor must they be the same distance apart from each other. It is vital that open space be visible between the groupings. A connection may be used at the base to unify the design.

Antoinette Babb

Third District Special Funds

Our District has several "designated" funds available for disbursement when the required conditions are met.

There are three funds available for educational purposes:

Fund A - Funds from this account can be used for District workshops, clinics or projects which promote the objectives and purposes of our Federation. A written request by a District Board member or recommendation of the Executive Committee and approval of the District Board can provide these funds to defray costs associated with the educational endeavor.

Fund B - Funds from this account, up to \$300 per year, may be used for horticulture and conservation education. The proposal for an expenditure from this fund must be presented in the form of a motion for discussion by the District Board. When the principal and accrued interest are fully expended, this account will be discontinued.

Schools' Fund - The purpose of this fund is to promote National Garden Clubs' objectives. Publications, open workshops, awards and projects can be funded from this account. The District can use this money to help finance a Landscape Design or Flower Show school. Proposals for the endeavor must be given to the Executive Committee and must be approved by majority vote of the District Board.

There are two funds available for flower show purposes:

The Peg King Memorial Fund - two \$50 scholarships may be granted, annually, to students taking a Flower Show School course for credit. Applicants must submit a request form and recipients will be chosen by District Scholarship Committee. If there are no Flower Show School students, the two scholarships may be awarded to District club members who wish to improve their skills in horticulture and landscape design, attend symposiums, environment workshops or courses in any related field of study offered by any District, State or Federation.

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In addition, an unsolicited flower show award in the form of a citation and \$50 may be given upon recommendation of the Awards Committee to the best Standard Flower Show in the District.

The Betty Warrell Flower Show Award - This is an unsolicited award in the amount of \$25 to a Standard Flower Show which scores 90% or more and which is not eligible to apply for any other award.

The District Board hopes that these funds will be put to use for their intended purposes.

Marge Lansing
Third District Treasurer

Horticulture

As the summer progresses we continue to enjoy the growth of beautiful blue-hued chicory along our roadsides. Chicory or *Cichorium intybus* is also known as cornflower or coffee weed. Our third president, Thomas Jefferson, was known to have grown chicory at Monticello.

The period of bloom is May through October. Many Europeans use young chicory leaves for a salad. Chicory root has also been roasted and ground for use as a coffee substitute. It contains no caffeine. Should you travel to New Orleans you would be able to enjoy chicory coffee at a sidewalk cafe with a sweet such as a beignet. Chicory produces a multitudinous number of seeds for bird consumption.



Elizabeth T. Hain

Who's Your Weatherman?

When we're making plans for a day, most of us turn on the TV or radio or our computers or look at the newspaper to find out what the weather is supposed to be like. There is another way to get a forecast: observe and listen to what bugs and animals are doing.

Animals have a sixth sense which makes them sensitive to approaching danger. Cricket chirping is a sign of hot weather, here or coming soon. The cricket is cold-blooded and sensitive to air temperature changes. When its body temperature increases, this triggers the cricket's muscles to contract more quickly. Fast chirping is a sign that heat is rising in the air. To find the temperature in Fahrenheit degrees, count the numbers of chirps in 14 seconds and add 40.

When birds are flying low, be prepared for a storm with strong winds. Birds may stop flying entirely an hour before the storm hits. This is in response to a drop in air pressure. Bats also will fly low and insects will stay close to the ground when air pressure changes, and wolves' ears will start hurting, causing them to howl.

Bees fly close to their hives, fish begin jumping high out of the water. Ants become extra busy and will close the opening to their anthill, preventing water from entering. Before a hurricane sharks leave their home waters if they are in the path of the storm. This is triggered by barometric pressure change. Seagulls and other birds that fly over water will fly inland before a storm.

During the tsunami of 2005 in Sri Lanka very few animals were killed compared to the massive human loss. Animals are very sensitive to vibrations in the ground. It has been reported that animals were behaving strangely days before the earthquakes.

A good rule to remember: If the animals are fleeing, take your own precautions.

Diana Buchan
Birds, Bats, Bugs

Club News

Greenport Garden Club's Program "Working Together Through Gardening"

This year our club planned a program to lend a helping hand to our members, both active and honorary. We spread the word, called members and put our gardening gloves on and gathered our garden tools.

In just the first month we had two members request assistance, and we headed out to help them weed, trim and deadhead. It not only provided some relief for members who were struggling with their gardens but it gave us a sense of accomplishment and a good feeling. It was also educational because as we were weeding we had to stop occasionally to identify the plant and or shrub. We spent a whole day working in our members gardens.

One of our members has a spectacular view of the mountains and Hudson River. We took time out to enjoy the view at the days end. It was invigorating and a wonderful experience to make our member ladies so happy: They were so appreciative.

This program is an open invitation for the rest of the year. The word is out... So if our members need help in their gardens, we will gather our "weed busters" and "diggers." who include Kathy Bucholsky, Cynthia Atkinson, Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Cecelia Sinclair, Carolyn West, Yetta Teo and Dot Brown.

Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

Other Greenport Club activities *Left:* Arbor Day tree planting, (left to right) Sue and Charlie Dillhoff, Cynthia Atkinson and Greenport Town Park staff member Bryce Dusenbery. *Right:* at the Clermont plant sale Cecelia Sinclair, Carolyn West, Yetta Teo, Kathy Bucholsky, Sue Dillhoff and Maria Kolodziej-Zincio.



Dazzling Dolls and Floral Fantasies

On September 11 and 12 the Garden Club of Kinderhook will present a Standard Flower Show, *Dazzling Dolls and Floral Fantasies*, in the historic Vanderpoel House at 18 Broad St. (Rte. 9) in Kinderhook. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

Below, left, staging materials are delivered to show co-chair Reneta Benenati's barn, where they are being refurbished. Club member Sandy Wooding hands down some of the equipment to Bob Leary and his wife, club President Pat Leary. Below right club member Camille McComb gets help from her young grandson Ewan as she brings in a bundle of signs from previous shows.



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An Evening in Pink

On Saturday evening, following the opening of the show, the Garden Club of Kinderhook will hold a benefit reception, *An Evening in Pink*, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Vanderpoel House. Pink attire is requested.

The proceeds from the reception will go to the Susan G. Komen fund for breast cancer research.

The cost for the reception is \$35.00 per person and will include hors d'oeuvres, live music, wine and a tour of "Dazzling Dolls and Floral Fantasies." Reservations are required, with a deadline of August 31. Send reservations with a check to the Garden Club of Kinderhook, Inc. at P. O. Box 393, Kinderhook, NY 12106.

For additional information call Patricia Knapp at (518) 392-0126.



Erin Brady



Jan Hartmuller



Columbia County Day

Sixty-seven Columbia County garden clubs members and guests attended Columbia County Day July 15 at the Dutch Reformed Church in Claverack. The event was coordinated by county co-chairs Marilyn Ryan and Jean Smith. In addition to good food and good company, the day featured a flower arranging presentation by Erin Brady of Crazy Daisy and some surprise entertainments. Who knew that Jan Hartmuller is a stand-up comedienne, with a formidable repertoire of jokes? Or that Olive Felio tap dances? Olive performed as a member of the Yankee Doodles Entertainers, a singing and dancing troupe of senior citizens (their piano player is 102 years young!), which includes a couple of, well, unusual Hawaiian dancers (see below).



A Yankee Doodle Entertainers number



Dancing duo



Olive Felio

Greene-Schoharie County Day — August 19

“A Step Back in Time”

10 AM —Lecture on the history of the Bronck House by Shelby Mattice, Museum Manager. A tour of the Hudson Valley's oldest home built in 1663 will follow. There are 11 remaining structures that once comprised the Bronck family farm. Directions: from Thruway exit 9W Coxsackie: south on 9W 3 ½ miles. Turn right at the red barn. From traffic light on 9W and 81 1/2 mile to red barn.

Following visit to the museum drive south to Pegasus Restaurant, located on the left side of 9W.

11 AM Pegasus Restaurant — Registration

Cheese Crackers and Fruit — Coffee and tea available

Mingle and chat about your summer adventures.

View educational exhibits. Visit Benefit Table and Ways and Means

12:15 PM- luncheon- Mixed field greens with house dressing,

Choice of Chicken Francaise, Salmon with Dill Sauce, or Penne Primavera.

Accompaniments: dinner rolls with butter, coffee and tea.

Dessert — Peach Cobbler

1:30 PM-Benefit Drawing

1:45 PM-Jeanne Cameron presents *The Gift of a Flower*

An artist, photographer, internationally acclaimed flower designer and art historian, Jeanne will discuss some of the ways flowers have been used for inspiration and healing in the past and how we can use those methods effectively today to affect the human body, mind and emotions.

Reservations (\$20 for the day) may be made by calling Carole Garvar at (518) 945-3739 by August 13. Send one check per club payable to Greene-Schoharie County Garden Clubs to her at 149 Sleepy Hollow Road Unit 1149 Athens, NY 12015. Include the names and menu choices on a separate sheet.

October Odyssey

Cathy Miller will once again entertain and educate at a Third District Meeting on Thursday, October 28 (**NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!**). Cathy has been a White House arranger in the past and has completed 62 arrangements for presidents. She specializes in dried flowers but for this presentation will include fresh ones as well.

Cathy is the author of *Harvesting, Preserving and Arranging Dried Flowers* and has just completed a new book, *Music, Flowers, Laughter and Me*, which may be available to our members. She has had articles in *Family Circle, Better Homes and Gardens, Brides, Woman's Day, Outdoor Living, Gardening* and many other publications. She has been on the Discovery Channel and Saturday Morning Live and other TV shows.

Please make reservations early if you wish to be entertained by this very creative, dynamic designer. Garden club presidents will receive more information on the flyers that will be sent out soon.

Reneta Benenati

Landscape Design

It has been some time since our District recognized landscape design sites in the various counties for award consideration. It is our hope that this project can be given a new life. Due to timing difficulties, the first nominations and critiques can not take place until the summer of 2011 and awards cannot be presented until the 2011 Fall District Meeting. That's a long way from now, but we all know how time gets away from us.

As you may recall, the awards are given to profit and not-for-profit entities in separate categories. The nominating counties are based on a rotation system. For the award to be given at the fall meeting in 2011, the nominating county will be Schenectady and evaluation of the nominated sites will be in the summer of 2011.

Here is a full list of the rotating counties:

2011 Fall Meeting	Schenectady - nomination/critique - summer 2011
2012 Spring Meeting	Greene - nomination/critique - summer 2011
2012 Fall Meeting	Schoharie - nomination/critique - summer 2012
2013 Spring Meeting	Ulster - nomination/critique - summer 2012
2013 Fall Meeting	Albany - nomination/critique - summer 2013
2014 Spring Meeting	Columbia - nomination/critique - summer 2013
2014 Fall Meeting	Rensselaer - nomination/critique - summer 2014
2015 Spring Meeting	Dutchess - nomination/critique - summer 2014

At present there are seven landscape design consultants qualified to critique the nominated sites, and they are able to travel to the appropriate site for evaluation. A copy of the nominating document, tips for site evaluation and a copy of the evaluation worksheet used by consultants to judge the site will be sent to all current club presidents before the end of September, 2010.

It is our hope that there will be a large participation in this very worthwhile endeavor. It is a great opportunity to interact with our respective community enterprises and for the various entities chosen for consideration to get to know us - their garden club neighbors.

Marge Lansing,
Landscape Design

Dried Flowers Workshop

10 a.m. Thursday, September 30

Renee's Barn

Rte. 9, Kinderhook, NY

Workshop members will make approximately 15 centerpieces for the Fall District Meeting on October 28th. Members will collect and bring some floral material to the workshop. Each member can make something for themselves as well. Bring clippers and a glue gun if you have one. A simple lunch will be provided. It should be fun as well as productive.

This workshop is limited to 20 persons. Please sign up for inclusion. Phone Renee at (518) 758-7789

The Digest Online

As many of you know, our District publication, *The Digest*, was made available to internet users with our May issue. We are on the new website of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. at www.fgcny.com. On the home page select District III, on that page select Digest Online.

It is the goal of the District to provide our publication, free of charge, to as many members as possible. Going forward, it is our intention to put the Digest on the internet quarterly.

We are aware that some District club members do not have access to the internet, and we are developing a protocol to assure those individuals that they will receive a print version of *The Digest* if that is their desire. Those members will need to instruct the Circulation Editor, Marge Lansing, of their wishes and will be requested to pay a subscription fee, \$4.00 per annum, to help defray the cost of the publication.

The District will continue mailing the next two quarterly issues (Nov. 2010 and Feb. 2011) for which members have paid their subscription. After that, the Digest will only be mailed to those who do not opt for the internet version and have paid their subscription fee. A pro-rated refund will be made to those who subscription term goes beyond the Feb. 2011 issue.

Maryann Weber, Digest Editor
Marge Lansing, Digest Circulation Editor

Coming Up

- Aug. 19** Greene-Schoharie County Day, Bronck House and Pegasus Restaurant, both on Rte 9W, Coxsackie (details page 7)
- Sept. 11** *An Evening in Pink*, a benefit for the Susan G. Komen fund for cancer research (details page 5)
- Sept. 11-12** *Dazzling Dolls and Floral Fantasies*. Garden Club of Kinderhook SFS, Vanderpoel House, 16 Broad St., Kinderhook (details page 5)
- Sept. 13-15** State Fall Conference, The Otesaga Hotel, Cooperstown
- Sept. 30** Dried Flowers Workshop, 18 Broad St., Kinderhook (details page 8)
- Oct. 15** November *Digest* deadline
- Oct. 28** Third District Fall Meeting, Pegasus Restaurant, Rte. 9W, Coxsackie (details pages 1 and 7)

To list your club's events on the next *Digest* calendar, send information to editor Maryann Weber, 2300 Spruce Drive, Valatie 12184 or e-mail junco@fairpoint.net by October 15.