

# The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



FEBRUARY 2017

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## Editor's Note

This is the time of year where we pause and try to thoughtfully plan our gardens. We browse catalogs and websites and imagine what our gardens will look like in the Spring.

As you know, I totally redid all my major garden beds last year. I can't wait to see what plants survived (or didn't). The complete overhaul of my front garden was a great accomplishment, but it caused me a lot of angst. I had to replant many of my favorite daffodils to a new location during the heat of the summer. So I don't know if they survived this endeavor. I also planted some new bulbs in the fall, but not as many as I wished. I probably could have done things better, like planting my astilbes in the correct place from the start, but it was a true learning experience which has helped me try to be a better gardener.

And so, like looking back at my gardens, I look back to the past two years in our Third District. I have to give a big shout-out to District Director Camille McComb. With Camille's many wonderful events and her TEAM spirit, she made us all feel that our Third District clubs were part of a big picture. Garden clubs in general are dwindling and having great leadership is important to keep us all engaged and to encourage new members to join.

So thank you Camille! You are a great leader and gave us a lot of inspiration. Kudos to you!

## From the Director



Hello to everyone!

2017 has arrived and another exciting year filled with events awaits. The FGCNYS, Inc. 93rd Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers will be held April 3–5, 2017 at the Millennium Hotel in Buffalo. More information is available on the state website, just click the Annual Meeting tab.

Don't forget to register for our Third District Meeting and Installation of Officers, entitled "Up, Up, & Away." It will be held on April 20 at Kozel's Restaurant in Ghent. The flyer is included

in this issue of The Digest (see page 5). Look to it for information on how to register. The registration form can be found on page 14.

And the 2015 survey says: "We'd like different speakers at District meetings, road trips are fun, the meetings are too long and expensive—can they be shortened, with lower price, horticulture is interesting, we like to learn more about this."

So, I listened to your comments and suggestions from the survey and hope you enjoyed the events that were planned for the past two years. A summary follows.

- We have a new Digest editor and a new format to keep everyone informed of district happenings.
- Our speakers have been different than in past years. We included a floral designer; a college professor who spoke on the value of scholarships and the moringa tree; a journey in art of a club member's mother called 'The Lost Holocaust—A Family Story' accompanied with floral designs created by club members; and a nationally recognized gardener, author, freelance writer, lecturer, and an accredited organic land care professional.



One of the many visits I made to Third District Clubs this past year included the Schoharie Valley Garden Club's Flower Show in the fall. Pictured (l to r): Anne Bielawski, Club President, Marie Muller, Past District Director, and Maureen Nippert, Club Member.

(from pg. 1)

- We have had a horticulture DVD with a continuous showing, along with educational displays; fun activities with fascinators, toppers, and prizes; favors; and Director Citations.
- The cost of meetings has gone down in price and time. The average cost is \$27 with meetings ending by 3 p.m.
- Membership outreach throughout the District was important to me. I attended your plant sales, flower shows, club anniversaries, and meetings to see all that you do for your clubs.
- I organized two National Garden Club Week celebrations for ALL THAT YOU DO during the first week in June.
- Our District trips to Naumkeag and Congress Park with lunch after each tour were so much fun!
- We now have a new Third District logo.
- And a Third District Facebook page.
- I partnered with a local Girl Scout Troop to create favors for one of our Third District Meetings. The troop painted vases depicting what is a garden and learned about what affects a garden. This was a great opportunity to share our youth's gardening knowledge.
- Our community and membership outreach at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show at Hudson Valley Community College was a big success. We plan to do this again in 2017.
- As the favors chairperson at the NGC-CAR Conference at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga, I relied on your help for this big endeavor.

WOW, it's been a very busy, productive, and fun two years that I've enjoyed immensely. Thank you for the warm welcome at your events, it was fabulous to meet the wonderful club members in the Third District! Keep up the great work and remember, we are a TEAM—Together/Teaching Everyone Achieves More!

Sincerely,

Camille McComb, Director

## Update

### FGCNYS, Inc. Office Hours

New secretary, Linda Zell works Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. and 2–5 p.m. She is also there on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2–5 p.m. The office is closed on Fridays.

Contact information: 21 A Brookedge, Guilderland, NY 12084-9110; phone and fax: 518-869-6311; email: fgcny@verizon.net

## OUR CLUBS

### District Three Clubs, by County

**Albany:** Blue Creek, Garden Study Club of Albany, Guilderland, Helderview, Town and Country

**Columbia:** Germantown, Greenport, The Garden Club of Kinderhook

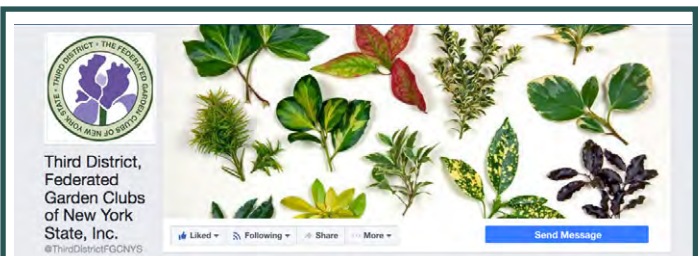
**Dutchess:** Tioronda

**Greene-Schoharie:** Athens, Clematis, Schoharie Valley

**Rensselaer:** Greenbush

**Schenectady:** Garden Explorers, Country Garden Club of Clifton Park, Glen Oaks, H. Gilbert Harlow, Hugh Plat, Western Hills

**Ulster:** Community Garden Club of Marlborough, Hillside Acres, New Paltz, Saugerties Society of Little Gardens, Shawangunk, Ulster, Woodstock



### CHECK OUT THE THIRD DISTRICT'S FACEBOOK PAGE!

Please like and share.

[www.facebook.com/ThirdDistrictFGCNYS/](http://www.facebook.com/ThirdDistrictFGCNYS/)



# THE BEES ARE CLUSTERING

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Greenport Garden Club

**A**s a beekeeper so many people including gardeners, ask me when I present workshops on bees, about what do bees do during the winter?

Well, they are very much active! They do not hibernate. They form clusters to keep each other warm with the queen locating herself in the center. Like penguins, the cluster rotates to make sure all the bees can feel the warmth of their vibrating flight muscles.

The honey bee is cold blooded, and unlike many other insects does not die off in the fall or hibernate. In the winter they are eating and metabolizing honey to keep warm. They maintain body heat from within and the winter cluster shivers their flight muscles to generate heat to warm the cluster. The muscles contact against each other, rather than on the wings.

When temperatures dip below 50 degrees, they cling to each other tightly on the comb of the hive. The core of the cluster temperature is about 64–90 degrees while the other mantle layer of bees maintains a temperature of about 48–57 degrees. When temperatures rise above fifty degrees, they break their cluster to feed on honey and/or take cleansing flights.

So you can appreciate the amazing life of the honey bee that gives us the liquid gold we all love.



*The winter bee cluster.*

## Capital District Garden and Flower Show 2017

by Diane Madden

The Capital District Garden and Flower Show will be held at Hudson Valley Community College, 80 Vandenburg Ave. (Route 4), Troy, NY 12180 on the following dates:

Friday, March 24, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m.– 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 26, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Third District has once again arranged for an information/membership booth in the section with the plant societies and educational exhibits. This year we have decided to partner up with the clubs in Fourth District.

This venue provides an excellent opportunity to generate new members for your clubs and get Federated

Garden Clubs' name "out there."

Volunteers will be needed to staff the table for 2- and 3-hour shifts.

Your club's participation is voluntary, and even if you are unable to send a representative to help staff the booth, we will still gladly distribute your club's contact information.

Each club will be contacted through their county chairperson.

For more information about the show, check out their website: [gardenandflowershow.com](http://gardenandflowershow.com).

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions: [3rddistrictgarden@gmail.com](mailto:3rddistrictgarden@gmail.com) or call me at 518-283-1067



*Top: Volunteers from the Hugh Plat Garden Club manning last year's booth. Bottom: District Director Camille McComb talks to visitors at last year's show.*



## YEARBOOK INFORMATION TO ADD FOR 2017

by Barbara Campbell, Third District Yearbook Chair

My committee is looking forward to evaluating your club's yearbook. Please send ONE copy of it to me by June 1, 2017. It is always exciting to see all the wonderful activities that each club is doing for their community. As you are putting together your yearbooks, keep in mind that officers are changing at all levels. You should use the officers' names that are in place at the time of publication. Some clubs include the current officers and officers-elect as the books are used into the next term. Also, please remember to check that you have updated the FGCNYS office address to 21A Brookedge, Guilderland, NY 12084-9110.

Here is a list of the new officers:

**FGCNYS President effective April 4, 2017**

Monica Hansen  
21 Henning Dr.  
Orchard Park, NY 14127-2816  
716-667-1434  
johnmonica@verizon.net

**CAR Director effective May 20, 2017**

Regina I. Brown  
116 N. Main St.  
Smyrna, DE 19977  
302-670-8333  
delasilver@comcast.net

**NGC President effective May 20, 2017**

Nancy L. Hargroves  
E-mail: inbleum@me.com  
For further information, contact  
headquarters at  
4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO  
63110-3406  
headquarters@gardenclub.org

## Your Club Deserves to be Awarded!

by Patricia Blundell, Third District Awards Chair

For Garden Clubs, every New Year involves creating a Yearbook of programs, workshops, etc. It is always challenging, exciting, and a great accomplishment!

Many of your clubs' programs, etc. are eligible for District, State, and National Awards. This Chairman would request each club review the FGCNYS Awards Manual. On the inside cover, under 'Table of Contents,' you'll find thirteen major categories to choose from. With a little research, you will find certain awards could be applied for from the information gathered. (The FGCNYS Awards Manual is available online here: [www.fgcnys.com/AwardsandForms.html](http://www.fgcnys.com/AwardsandForms.html))

When you do arrive at the wonderful decision that your club is eligible for an award, please follow all the necessary directions. Among all those directions is the completion of an FGCNYS Application for Award.

As a reminder, when completing that application, it is important to also complete and enclose an NGC Awards Application. These applications forms are available online here: [www.gardenclub.org/awards/awards-applications.aspx](http://www.gardenclub.org/awards/awards-applications.aspx).

Help is here if needed!

Contact this Chairman at [floralartistry01@hvc.rr.com](mailto:floralartistry01@hvc.rr.com).





## SPRING DISTRICT MEETING:

# Up, Up, and Away

Camille McComb, Director, Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.

Warmly invites you to the Spring District Meeting

**April 20, 2017**

Kozel's Restaurant, 1006 Rt. 9H, Ghent, NY 12075 | 518-828-3326

**REGISTRATION:** 8:30–11:30 a.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** 10–11:15 a.m.

**LUNCHEON:** 12:15 p.m.

\$27 (prepaid by April 3)

Menu: Tossed Salad; Choice of: Roast Turkey with Dressing, Salmon with Dill Sauce, or Eggplant Parmigiana with Penne; Broccoli with Cheese Sauce; and Apple Crisp

**VENDORS, BENEFIT TABLE, WAYS AND**

**MEANS, AND EXHIBITS:** from 9 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

**RESERVATIONS:** due April 3. Send names of attendees and menu choice with one check per club to **Cindy Teator, Registrar;**

8 Catskill Dr., Kinderhook, NY 12106.

[greateating@yahoo.com](mailto:greateating@yahoo.com) or 518-755-7086.

Make checks payable to Third District, FGCNYS, Inc.

**A FUN THING TO DO:** Wear something pink and/or green and think Spring!

**DIRECTIONS:** From the south: I-87 (Thruway) north to Catskill exit 21, left at traffic light. Left onto Rt. 23 east across Rip Van Winkle Bridge. Follow 23 east to intersection of Rt. 9H and 9. Left onto 9H north to Kozel's approx. 10 miles. Right at restaurant, park in back.

From the north: I-90 east to exit 12. Right onto Rt. 9 south to rotary, take second right onto Rt. 9H south. Kozel's on left, approx. 10 miles, park in back.

**PROGRAM: TOVAH MARTIN**

An avid (verging on obsessed) gardener indoors and outside, Tovah Martin is the author of many gardening books—most recently *The Indestructible Houseplant* (2015, Timber Press) which follows the success of *The Unexpected Houseplant* (2012, Timber Press) and *The New Terrarium* (2009, Clarkson Potter). Her articles have appeared in publications throughout the country including *Country Gardens*, *Country Home*, *Traditional Home*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *O the Oprah* magazine, *Old House Interiors*, *Horticulture* magazine, *Yankee*, *Connecticut Cottages & Gardens* and numerous others as well as *The Daily Telegraph* in Europe. In addition to being the 2012 Writer in Residence for the new *Victoria* magazine, she is an accredited Organic Land Care Professional through NOFA, an honorary member of the Garden Club of America and the recipient of their medal for outstanding literary achievement. In 2013, she received the Gustav Mehlquist Award—the highest honor bestowed by the Connecticut Horticultural Society. She has appeared on the *Martha Stewart Show*, PBS television series, and the CBS Sunday Early Show as well as many other television and radio broadcasts. She speaks throughout the country and has lectured aboard the QE2. Tovah can be found at [www.tovahmartin.com](http://www.tovahmartin.com) and she blogs on Facebook at Plantwise by Tovah Martin.



## GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

### Germantown Garden Club Learns About Winter Landscapes

At our November meeting, the club hosted speaker Michele Decker, who spoke on “Planting for Winter Interest and Supporting Wildlife.” Michele has been designing, installing, and maintaining gardens professionally in the northern Dutchess and southern Columbia County areas since 1985. She stressed that by choosing plants that in winter have unusual bark, branch structure, or color, gardens can be attractive in all seasons. Using examples, Michele’s slide presentation also covered what plants would be good to help sustain wildlife during the winter months.

### Germantown Garden Club’s Holiday Open House

On December 3 and 4, the club held a Holiday Open House at the Palatine Parsonage. This event featured an educational horticulture exhibit “Winter Container Plants.” Also on hand was the sale of member decorated holiday wreaths, table arrangements and a sale of boutique items. This is one way our club raises funds for our many philanthropies; for example, a \$500 scholarship for a graduating senior who plans a career in the horticulture field and supporting local environmental organizations.

Our club also sponsored an ‘Adorn-A-Door’ holiday decorating competition for the senior residents at Palatine Manor as one of our projects for seniors. This year 34 residents participated. This was a new record for participation. At the December meeting, the club held their installation of Club Officers. The officers for 2017 are: President, Fran Bufi, Vice-President, Mattie Gifford, Recording Secretary, Marilyn Rein, and Treasurer, Joyce Vale. The agenda for the meeting included a year-end review and committee reports. Gifts were collected for the residents of Livingston Hills Nursing Center.

### Garden Club Plans for 2017

The Germantown Garden Club yearbook committee met to plan the club’s programs and activities for 2017. Each year the club uses a theme upon which to focus some of their monthly speaker presentations. The theme for 2017 is “*Creating Special Gardens*.” Included this year will be an overview of the many different theme gardens that can be planted. Included in the program this year will be, to name a couple, a bulb garden, and a fairy garden. The club will meet and tour the home of a member who has an orchard of more than 500 apple trees of multiple varieties. Also on the agenda is The Germantown Garden Club’s annual award-winning flower show to be held in June. A field trip is also planned to the home of a professional gardener who will demonstrate the ‘art’ of pruning. 2017 is shaping up to be another exciting year for the gardeners of the Germantown Garden Club. The first meeting of the new year will be February 28 at noon in the Hover Room at the Germantown Library.



*Our Holiday Open House featured an educational exhibit on house plants that would make great gifts for the holidays.*



*Club members having a good time at our Annual Holiday Luncheon.*



*The planning committee met to discuss the programs for 2017. Pictured; (standing left to right) Melanie Nelson, Karin Janson, and Irene Clum; (seated left to right) GGC Vice-President Mattie Gifford and Treasurer, Joyce Vale*

## GREENBUSH GARDEN CLUB

RENSSELAER COUNTY

by Diane Madden

On Friday night December 2 the club held their annual holiday get together in the community room of Branson Manor. The food was great and everyone had a wonderful time. The next morning we leaped out of our beds and hurried to Beckers Farm's Holiday Faire where an information/membership was set up amid all the tables of local vendors and crafters. At the January meeting, a film was shown on Butchart Gardens which one of our members had toured a while ago. In February Melanie Mason from Hudson Adirondack Daylily Society will present "Everything You Wanted to Know About Daylilies But Were Afraid to Ask." In February the club is trying something new—a roundtable discussion for the public on vegetable gardening. Since several of our club members are Master Gardeners, they will provide up to date information and answer questions.



### Garden Therapy

by Joan Giordano

The Greenbush Garden Club has a thriving Garden Therapy Program. We meet five times a year—the second Fridays of October, December, February, March, and May at the Van Rensselaer Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility in Troy. I make a theme for each month to get folks excited. I work with the Activities Chair at the Manor. The nursing home runs a sign-up sheet so we know how many are interested. We like to work with 25 patients or five to a table at most. There are five helpers from our club or one per table.

I select the containers and fill them with oasis and purchase flowers and fillers so each patient can do their own design with the help of Garden Club members. In flower season, we are fortunate to get fresh flowers from members.

The patients really enjoy doing this. We plan it for the later part of the morning, just before lunch. That time works well with the patients and the helpers.

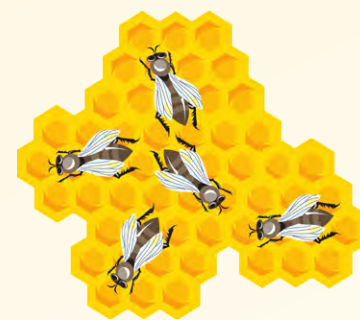
They feel free to ask if they have questions. And they forge right ahead.

*At Beckers Farm's Holiday Faire. Pictured (left to right) are Nan Twachtman, Diane Madden, Olive Felio, and Joan Giordano.*

## Help Our Pollinators!

Below are things you can do to help protect the biodiversity of pollinators and give you the chance to see butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and other friendly fauna.

- Design your garden so that there is a continuous succession of plants flowering from spring through fall. Gradually replace lawn grass with flower beds.
- Plant native to your region using plants that provide nectar for adults plus food for insect larvae. If you do use non-native plants, choose ones that aren't invasive. Select old-fashioned varieties because breeding has caused some modern blooms to lose their fragrance and/or the nectar/pollen needed to attract and feed pollinators.
- Install 'houses' for bats and native bees. For example, use wood blocks with holes or small open patches of mud. As little as 12" across is sufficient for some bees.
- Avoid pesticides, even so-called 'natural' ones such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). If you must use them, use the most selective and least toxic ones and apply them at night when most pollinators aren't active.
- Supply water for all wildlife. A dripping faucet or a suspended milk carton with a pinhole in the bottom is sufficient for some insects. Provide water for butterflies without letting it become a mosquito breeding area. Refill containers daily or bury a shallow plant



saucer to its rim in a sunny area, fill it with coarse pine bark or stones and fill to overflowing with water.

- Share fun facts, such as: a tiny fly (a "midge") no bigger than a pinhead is responsible for the world's supply of chocolate; or one out of every three mouthfuls of food we eat is delivered to us by pollinators.



## GREENPORT GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

### Greenport Garden Clubs Holds “Winter Garden Preparation” Workshop

Winter wasn't far behind and gardeners knew it was time to prepare their beds for winter. Guest speaker Robert Clyde Anderson of The Pondsides Nursery in Hudson presented an informative workshop in preparing our gardens for winter. Robert provided pointers and ideas for what to do and what not to do in order to prepare for the coming winter months such as storing tools, what to do with garden furnishings, and preparing flower beds for whatever Mother Nature will throw at us. Robert relocated to the Hudson Valley after a New York City career in illustration and book design. He is a native of Louisiana, a lifelong gardener, and has designed and maintained gardens in Columbia County as well as serving as the right-hand man for eight years at the former Loomis Creek Nursery in Claverack. At Pondsides, Robert is the buyer for perennials, annuals, tropicals, pottery, tools, and accessories. He also writes the blog for Pondsides Nursery and serves as part of the nursery sales team. Members walked away from the workshop empowered to get their beds ready for the winter ahead.

### Giving is Better than Receiving for The Greenport Garden Club

The Greenport Garden Club at their Annual Holiday Luncheon in December took up a collection of non-perishable foods and personal items that were then distributed to local homeless children and their families. The boxes of cheer were coordinated by Greenport Garden Club member Carolyn West and delivered to Tara McSherry-Wolfe, Hudson Junior High School Social Worker, who coordinates programs for homeless children in the Hudson area. Tara states “The items that the Greenport Garden Club contributed will definitely be appreciated by families living in motel rooms with minimal cooking facilities.” The Greenport Garden Club members all participated in spreading good will to those in need during a time when giving is most important.

### Arranging Holiday Greens for the Community

“Tis the Season” and members of the Greenport Garden Club gathered at the Greenport Town Hall to prepare holiday arrangements for the community. The gathering is an annual event for the club as they create and decorate greens for various sites in the community. A large wreath designed and constructed by garden club members Stephanie Teator, Nancy Westbrook, and Angela Rapp was donated to the Gallery of Wreaths event in Kinderhook along with holiday wreaths and baskets created by garden club members Stephanie Teator, Nancy Westbrook, Angela Rapp, Kathy Bucholsky, Yetta Teo, and Lynn Kowalski. The holiday decorations were donated and placed at The Greenport Town Hall, Hudson Public Library, and the Columbia County Community Health Care Consortium. All greens and accessories were donated and provided by participating club members who worked diligently as elves to make sure the decorations were out early for the public to see and enjoy as the season began.



“Holiday Greens in the Community.” Pictured are Angela Rapp, Lynn Kowalski, Stephanie Teator, Nancy Westbrook, and Kathy Bucholsky.



Left: “Preparing Beds for the Winter.” Pictured is Robert Anderson of Pondsides Nursery, Hudson, NY.

Right: “Holiday Giving.” Pictured are members Cynthia Atkinson, Sylvia Macheski, and Carolyn West.



## GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Merrill-Lee Lenegar

### O Christmas Tree!

That was the theme of the Open House and Greens Show held on December 2–4, 2016 sponsored by the Guilderland Garden Club and the Guilderland Historical Society. This annual event is held at the historic Mynderse-Frederick House on Route 146 in Guilderland Center. The house was built in 1802 by Nicholas Mynderse who operated an inn and tavern in the home. He was elected the first supervisor for the newly-formed town of Guilderland, which was previously part of Watervliet. Over the years the house went through several modifications but during the 1960s many of these changes were removed to return the house to its original appearance. In 1974 the house was donated to the Town of Guilderland for use as a museum and as the headquarters of the Guilderland Historical Society. It is now also the main meeting place for the Guilderland Garden Club. The Historical Society and Garden Club have been holding this free community event since 1975. Each year the house is decorated by Club members with live greens, ornaments, wreaths, and arrangements which can be purchased. A portion of the proceeds from these sales and from donations are given to a local organization or community group. The recipient for the 2016 show was the Thacher Park Center-Capital Campaign. Nonperishable items were collected and given to two local food banks along with monetary contributions. Visitors enjoyed homemade refreshments, including the traditional Russian Tea, and entertainment provided by local entertainers. Over 200 visitors came to see the house in its holiday dress, to hear the entertainment, and enjoy the wonderful refreshments. At our annual January post-holiday luncheon we already began to talk about our 2017 event

Our program year will begin at on March 13 at the Mynderse-Frederick House. Timothy Huggett, Master/English Gardener from Schenectady County Cornell Cooperative Extension will speak on Garden Design. He will tell us about the latest trends including pathways, creative ideas for planting, and tending problem areas in the yard. The public is invited to attend and refreshments will be provided.



Left: Tree in parlor. All of the ornaments and garland were made by Club members.

Right: Front door decorations included crocheted trees with crystal prisms, white pine greens with lights, wreath, and trees made from balsam branches.



Top: Just a sample of some of the 40 arrangements that were made by Club members for sale at the Open House.

Middle: Dining room sideboard with miniature tree decorated with birds, berries and pinecones.

Bottom: Upstairs railing with Western Red Cedar roping and bows with painted pinecones.



## HUGH PLAT GARDEN CLUB

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

by Mary Ann DeFonce

At our October meeting, the Hugh Plat Garden Club held a fall flower arranging workshop at the home of club secretary Fran Scrafford. We concentrated on small arrangements, each of us bringing in goods from our yards and then sharing the bounty. What fun we had vying for especially beautiful specimens! Our arrangements were judged by club president Sue Bushman, adding to the excitement.

In mid-November, we held a workshop at Sue Bushman's home to make arrangements and wreaths for our yearly decorating of the Schenectady County Historical Society's annual Festival of Trees and their first holiday open house. On November 30th we filled the mantles and tabletops of the house with our chosen theme, "Old Silver and Snow." We dressed the front porch and back door with beautiful wreaths and side arrangements. Many nice compliments were received on this year's lovely festival decorations.

Our December 16th meeting was a Christmas luncheon, held this year at The Century House in Latham. On January 20th we held our yearly planning meeting and election of officers at the home of club member Mary Ann De Fonce.

And so we look forward to a new year filled with foliage, flowers, and friendship!



*Above: Pretty arrangements! (l to r) Fran Fazio, Mary Ann De Fonce, Fran Scrafford.*

*Left: Fall workshop in progress. (l to r) Fran Fazio, Sue Bushman, Fran Scrafford.*

*Photos at right: Some of the club's decorations for the Schenectady County Historical Society's Festival of Trees and Open House. Top: Front door. Middle: Detail of the staircase decorations. Bottom: Candles ready for ushering in the Christmas season.*





## THE GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Sue Chiafullo

November was a busy month as club members prepared for the holidays. Several of us traveled to Experience Design in Schenectady to see designer David Siders work his magic on holiday floral design plus view the incredible array of holiday trees and decorations at the store.

The boxwood workshop kicked off the club's holiday decorating. Members gathered to create boxwood tree arrangements, wreaths, and candle centerpieces. In addition, some members attended a wreath making workshop at Flower Blossom Farm in Ghent. Many of those decorations were used at the Lindenwald Winter Celebration.

December had members decorating the Martin Van Buren Historic Site for their annual Winter Celebration. Lindenwald, the home of the 8th President of the United States, was open for special holiday tours. Club members interpreted the historical events of 1916 with floral arrangements in the estate's many rooms. The end result was spectacular!

The President's Tea was also held in December at the home of Sandra Wooding. Members were treated to a wide assortment of delicious cookies, sandwiches, and other goodies while enjoying the festive spirit of the season.

The club kicked off the New Year with a floral demonstration conducted by flower show award winners, Vicki Smith and Eileen McHugh-Szepessy. The theme of the presentation was how to create delightful arrangements using found objects at home.

Awards were also presented to the winners of the 2016 This Land is Your Land flower show competition.

### Flower Show Trophies Awarded

by Fran Heaney

The Garden Club of Kinderhook met at the McNary Center on January 10th to award its bi-annual flower show trophies. The awards committee comprised of Jane Rose, Vicki Smith, and Pat Dorsey presented the Enid Wadsworth trophy to Carolyn Beveridge. Carolyn garnered the highest points in the horticulture category. The Helen Harder McGee silver vase was shared by Anne Schomaker and Cynthia Bogardus for their design excellence. Anne Schomaker also won the Judith Atkinson Keller award for mass flower arrangement. Sylvia Kelly was awarded the Minie Louise Feltner silver pitcher trophy for horticulture excellence.



*Presenting and receiving the bi-annual flower show awards were (l to r): Jane Rose, Sylvia Kelley, Anne Schomaker, Vicki Smith, Cynthia Bogardus, and Carolyn Beveridge.*



*Members decorate the Martin Van Buren Historic Site for the holidays with an interpretation of the 1916 Votes for Women theme.*



*Members gather to create holiday decorations at our Boxwood workshop.*

## SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Helene Morris

January through March are relatively quiet months for the Shawangunk Garden Club. But throughout the year we gather food for the various churches in our area.

On April 3, we are having our first open meeting for the public. This is also done in October to get the community interested in our club. Very often we add to our membership through these meetings.

Our Annual Spring Lunch in May is always at one of our area's popular restaurants. This year it will be held at Tavern on the Gunk. It's a great way to welcome home the snowbirds and to start the planting season.

In June, for our yearly outing, we will be going to Black Meadow Flora Orchid Farm. We usually incorporate a lovely lunch at a restaurant nearby.

For National Garden Week in June, some of our members make floral arrangements to be displayed in various businesses around town.

In July, we march in the Fourth of July parade and give out flowers to people on the sidelines.

August is the Wild Blueberry Festival where we have a booth and disseminate gardening tips, have fresh flowers from our members' gardens for sale, and sell plants and small trees from our gardens.

On September 23, we are celebrating our 90th Anniversary at the Hunt Memorial Library which is in the center of Ellenville. Specific details to come.

In November for the holidays, we decorate the Terwilliger House Museum which is part of the Ellenville Library. The community comes to view this every year with delight. Also in November, members make centerpieces for the Noonday Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner.

In December we have our holiday party at a member's home, which is a great way to end the year.

## TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack

Members of the Tioronda Garden Club were busy this Christmas Season. At our final club meeting for 2016, we held a workshop where members made holiday wreaths, sprays, and centerpieces while feasting on homemade appetizers and desserts, eggnog and other libations.

On November 28, the club participated in the annual decorating of the Madam Brett Historical Site in Beacon, NY. The homestead is the oldest house in Dutchess County and is home to the Melzingah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Afterward, the DAR provided a light lunch for our club members in appreciation for a job well done and were joined by Club President Gary Barrack.

Our club prepared over 80 wreaths for placement along Beacon's business district. This year, the club completed a three-year program to purchase new wreaths, lights, and bows for the lampposts along the entire one-mile stretch of Main Street.



*Top left: Club members at the DAR lunch which was held in appreciation for our club's work at the Madam Brett Historical Site. Left: Members preparing the wreaths for placement along Main Street. Right: members Margaret Capozzi, Phyllis Horton and Ann Landisi are shown decorating the homestead in colonial holiday style.*



# Clubs Calendar 2017

## March 16

Third District Board Meeting, Kozel's Restaurant, Ghent.

## March 24–26

Capital District Garden and Flower Show, Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, NY.

## April 1

Spring Gardening Day, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Columbia-Greene College, Hudson, NY.

## April 3–5

FGCNYS, Inc. Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers, Millennium Hotel Buffalo, Buffalo, NY.

## April 20

Third District Spring Meeting and Installation of Officers, Up, Up, and Away, Kozel's Restaurant, Ghent.

## April 22

Earth Day

## April 28

Arbor Day

## May 18–20

NGC Annual Convention and Board Meeting  
Virginia is for Gardeners. Richmond Marriott,  
Richmond, VA.

## June 4–10

National Garden Club Week

## September 18–19

FGCNYS Fall Conference  
Best Western Plus, Kingston, NY.

## October 3–5

FGCNYS, Inc. Ninth District Flower Show School,  
Chappaqua, NY.

## October 19

District III Fall Meeting,  
Best Western Plus, Kingston, NY.

## October 25–26

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Mini-Conference  
Annapolis, MD.

## Announcing the Newest Edition of the Handbook for Flower Shows

by Patricia Blundell, Third District Judges Council Chair

The 2017 edition of the NGC *Handbook for Flower Shows* will soon be available. This is a 'must-have' and a 'most wonderful' asset for Garden Clubs.

It can be ordered from NGC Headquarters, Member Services at 1-800-550-6007, Ext. 218. Orders only.

Club presidents and members are encouraged to place orders early. Having a club program to become familiar with the information in the 2017 edition of the NGC *Handbook for Flower Shows* is highly recommended.

**July 1 is the effective date to implement information from the new Handbook into your Flower Shows.**

Good luck and enjoy!

You can order it online here:

[www.shopgardenclub.org/shop/item.aspx?itemid=334](http://www.shopgardenclub.org/shop/item.aspx?itemid=334)



*The Digest Online* is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of the month before each issue (January, April, July, and October).

Please send news of your club's activities, events, and plans—it's a great way to share what you are doing with other clubs. Unlike print newsletters, there is no prohibitive cost factor for using color, so send in your photos. Articles on various gardening and flower arranging topics are especially welcome.

Material for *The Digest* should be sent to Karin Janson via email at [kjanson@aol.com](mailto:kjanson@aol.com).

To access *The Digest*, go to the State website—[fgcnys.com](http://fgcnys.com)—select District III on the home page and then select *Digest Online*.

**Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. Third District**

**Registration Form for Spring Meeting and Luncheon**

**Up, Up, and Away • April 20, 2017**

Kozel's Restaurant, 1006 Rt. 9H, Ghent, NY 12075 • 518-828-3326

Greetings! Clubs, please complete this form.

- Each club is to provide a printed list of attendees' names, noting selected entrée for each. Diet restrictions can be accommodated if pre-arranged by submitting a written request with this form.
- Enclose one check covering the group amount, payable to: Third District, FGCNYS, Inc. Cost of \$27 covers luncheon, gratuity, and speaker.
- Due date is April 3rd. Have questions regarding registration?  
Contact Cindy Teator at 518-755-7086 or email: [greateating@yahoo.com](mailto:greateating@yahoo.com)  
Mail form and check to Third District Registrar: Cindy Teator, 8 Catskill Dr., Kinderhook, NY 12106

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Contact Person to call if questions arise regarding this registration:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Enclosed Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Members Names (Please Print):

Fish     Turkey     Veg
