

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



MAY 2017

CONTENTS

Meet Our New Officers	3
The May-Apple	5
Time for Spring Cleaning	6
Recap on Capital District Show Awards	7
District III Spring Meeting	8
In Our Clubs	9
New Flower Show Rules	11
Club Calendar	13
Tri-Refresher Program	18
	19

Editor's Note

Spring is here and in Third District it is also a time to usher in our new leadership. I welcome our new Director Gary Barrack and our new District Board Members. First, I would like to give them all a big shout out for taking on these roles. They are going above and beyond what they do for their individual clubs. I hope you will see why they do this in my Q&As to them. They deserve a big round of applause.

I attended the Spring District meeting and was overwhelmed with how much our clubs do in each of our communities. I was especially impressed with the results of our outreach at the Capital District Garden & Flower Show. Did you know that we had over 100 people interested in joining our clubs?

As a side note, from the show, it was gleaned that many people thought that being a member of NGC meant that we are only concerned about flower arranging. I encourage you and your clubs to spread the news to your local media to make sure that you get the word out that what we do is so much more than that.

What is going on in your gardens? I encourage any member to write an article for *The Digest*. Our readers would really like to hear about gardening, club initiatives, or anything garden related.

Please feel free to give me any feedback and let me know if you have any ideas to make this newsletter more engaging for you.

Karin Janson, Germantown Garden Club
kjanson@aol.com

From the Director



Hello to everyone!

The new Third District Executive Board was installed on April 20, 2017, at our Spring meeting. I wish to thank the members of the Third District for electing me as your new Director. I greatly appreciate your support and confidence in me and look forward to working for you during my term of office. Learning about the position of Director has been quite overwhelming. Thankfully I have been blessed with a wonderful Board of Directors. They possess great talent, knowledge, and dedication to furthering the goals of our great organization. Their help and support have been unwavering, and for that, I am extremely grateful.

In particular, I cannot say enough about our past Director, Camille McComb. She has been a role model and a mentor as she assists me with her knowledge and guidance. She has charted a path of dedication and commitment that will inspire other members and leaders for years to come. I have requested that Camille serve as my Advisory Chairman and she has graciously accepted.

I am pleased to announce that we have a new Chairman for World Gardening. She is our Assistant Treasurer, Marie Celeste. Effective immediately, all donations to World Gardening should be sent to Marie Celeste, 39 Donegal Ave., Troy, NY 12180. Checks should be made payable to "FGCNYS World Gardening." It was my pleasure to serve as World Gardening Chairman during the past six years. I have been overwhelmed by your continuing generosity and support.



At the March Board Meeting, I introduced our members who will serve as our Board of Directors. You can meet them all starting on page 3.

(from pg. 1)

We will hold our first board meeting on May 18 to plan activities and establish goals for 2017–2018. Building on new membership will be one of our main priorities. We are already seeing a resurgence in new memberships and hopefully, we can continue this trend. Attracting and recruiting new members keeps us relevant, strong, and financially sound.

Please mark your calendars:

June 4–June 10: National Garden Club Week. This is an excellent opportunity for clubs to plan activities that create an awareness of our objectives of beautification, gardening, and environmental efforts.

September 17–19, 2017: The 67th FGCNYS Fall Conference at the Best Western Hotel in Kingston, NY. Visit our website at www.fgcnys.com for details.

October 19, 2017: Third District Fall Meeting at the Best Western Hotel in Kingston, NY. Details to follow as we approach the date.

Sincerely,

Gary Barrack, Director

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

Save the Date!

Thursday, September 7, 2017

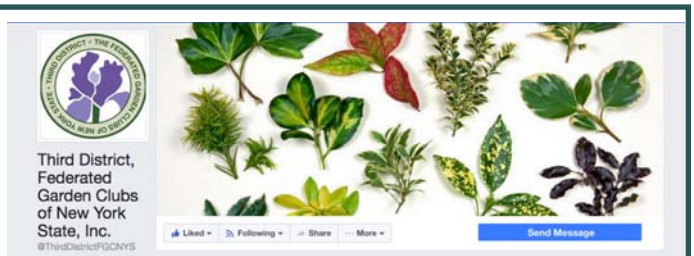
Third District
Field Trip

Wethersfield House and Gardens
Millbrook, NY

More information coming soon

YEARBOOKS!

June 1 is the deadline to send in your Yearbooks for judging. Please send one copy to Barbara Campbell
14 Deerpath Dr.
New Paltz, NY 12561



CHECK OUT THE THIRD DISTRICT'S FACEBOOK PAGE!

Please like and share.

www.facebook.com/ThirdDistrictFGCNYS/



MEET OUR NEW OFFICERS



GARY BARRACK

Director, District III

Who I Am: Born and raised in Beacon, NY. Employed as a Revenue Agent with the Internal Revenue Service for 40 years, retiring in 2012. Served as president of the National Treasury Employees Union for 35 years while working at the IRS. Married to wife Pamela; we have one son, and a first grandchild, a boy, who was born

in September 2016.

I joined the Tioronda Garden Club in 1998 and currently, serve as President. My focus now is on civic beautification in our city, trying to encourage others to plant and beautify their homes and improve our communities.

What is your gardening background? Since I was a child, I was always intrigued by my Grandmother's flower garden. She loved flowers and used every available space to grow an amazing variety of flowers and shrubs. I would help her to maintain the gardens by weeding, cultivating, and pruning. Later in life, I moved into my grandparents home and to this day, still maintain their gardens. Many species and varieties have been grown there since 1925. Each year they bloom and each year I think how truly amazing nature is.

What inspired you to become a Board Member? Interacting with members of other clubs, and observing the dedication and commitment of Board members convinced me that our organization was worth additional involvement, time, and support. I hope my term as Director will continue our proud heritage of garden club service to our communities and our country.

What is your favorite flower and why do you like it? Now that is a tough question; is more than one favorite acceptable? Let me take the easy way out. I would describe my choices as old time favorites; those that require minimal care, and are long lasting and fragrant. Peonies, Irises, Lilacs, and old-fashioned English Tea Roses come to mind. They are like old friends, reliably blooming each year with gorgeous colors and sweet fragrance. These are flowers that excite the senses, beautify the garden, while providing nectar for the bees. What more could you ask for?



MERRIL-LEE LENEGAR

*First Assistant Director,
District III*

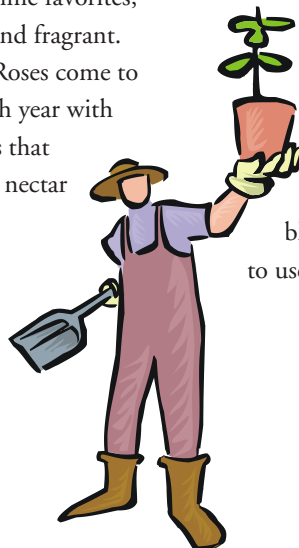
What is your gardening background?

As a child, I helped my grandmother and my mother tend the gardens at grandma's house. She had beautiful roses, hydrangeas, peonies, and many annuals, as well as apple trees and vegetables. Some of her rose bushes she grew by taking a cutting from an

existing bush and sticking it in the ground under a glass jar. I was so fascinated by how she was able to make things grow. When I was in elementary school the city of Albany had a student tulip garden contest which I entered. A judge would come to your home to see the tulips that were planted by the student. My tulip garden won a prize which was tulip bulbs from Holland. Today, my husband and I keep expanding our gardens. What was once only gardens around the perimeter of our property now includes an English-style garden in an area that was once an in-ground swimming pool. I love working in the garden and have many flowers that I cut for bouquets for family and friends.

What inspired you to be a Board Member? At first, I was reluctant to be considered for a Board position. But after talking to some of the current members, and other who indicated their willingness to help guide or assist me, I said I would consider a position. I look forward to working with the new Board Members to continue to advance the goals and achievements that have been realized by former Board Members and members of the clubs in District III.

What is your favorite flower or vegetable and why do you like it? My favorite flower is Hydrangea. This is a flower that was prominent in my grandma's and mom's gardens. When my family moved to our current home, my mom dug up three small hydrangea bushes from her garden for us to start a garden. We now have hydrangeas across the entire back of our house. Some of them we have brought back from Cape Cod, but the majority are from the original plants that mom gave us. I love seeing these flowers in bloom, cutting them for bouquets, and letting them dry to use in wreaths and dry flower arrangements.





ELIZABETH WALKER

*2nd Assistant Director,
District III*

What is your gardening background?

Although I helped in the garden as a child, I didn't start gardening seriously until my husband and I bought our first house in 2001. The yard was surrounded by a stockade fence and hadn't been tended in years. Down came the fence

and we started building the frame of a garden: flowering trees, peony beds, perennials along the back of the house. There was one memorable Memorial Day weekend when we moved 1 1/2 tons of stones to form a wall around a new shade garden! Sixteen years on and we are again in a house whose gardens were neglected. We've installed some raised beds and are struggling to get perennial weeds out of the existing beds. We're taking a deliberate "no harm" approach to the wetlands in front of our house and are being rewarded with all sorts of wildlife visitors. And we finally have room for a large straw bale vegetable garden— 25 bales last year and the same number scheduled for this year. It is a fabulous way to grow vegetables and we will be trying some flowers in bales this year as well.

What inspired you to be a Board Member? I hadn't considered being a Board Member until the autumn meeting when I was asked to stand for election. Although a bit surprised, I consider it to be an honor to be part of the team that supports the garden clubs within the district and I am looking forward to meeting many of the wonderful gardeners in our district.

What is your favorite flower or vegetable and why do like it?

Now, this is a tough one. My favorite flowers fall into 2 categories, the first being those voluptuous beauties: peonies, ranunculus, and English or garden roses and the second category being the simpler but more exotic orchids. Then there are lilacs, pansies, and petunias. As to vegetables—I have to list three of them. First, the purple podded pole bean for its beauty, its bounty, and its flavor. Second, any heirloom tomato. Finally, the Rouge Vif D'etampes pumpkin. It is beautiful, has great flavor, and is an old French heirloom. It is thought to have been the model for the pumpkin coach in Cinderella!



JEAN HORN

*Recording Secretary,
District III*

What is your gardening background?

My gardening began when I was a child growing up on a large beef farm in Wisconsin. My mother had beautiful flower gardens and always brought fresh flowers into our house. My mother and father also had a

huge, productive vegetable garden. Naturally, I was occasionally expected to help weed...and decided back then that I never wanted gardens when I grew up...too much work! Of course, here I am now, gardening/landscaping on several acres!

What inspired you to be a Board Member? I originally agreed to be a District Board Member because I felt we needed to improve communication and information between our NYS Third District Garden Club Organization and the individual Garden Clubs...it is still my goal.

What is your favorite flower or vegetable and why do like it? My favorite flower is an English rose. I love the beauty of the flowers, the swirls of the petals and the wonderful rose scent...if only I could grow them well!



CATHERINE FRUHAUF

*Correspondence Secretary,
District III*

What is your gardening background?

I grew up in the flower business. My family owned a florist shop and greenhouses in New Jersey. I am a Master Gardener with the Cornell Cooperative Extension specializing in programs about pruning, composting, and perennials.

I also serve on the Town of Clifton Park Green Committee, am a member of various garden societies such as Daylily, Hosta, and Iris, and work with Capital Roots community gardens. Traveling to special gardens in the world gives me pleasure—I've been to England, Holland, France, Belgium, Italy, China, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and Alaska.

What inspired you to be a Board Member? I serve as the Schenectady County Chair, so when I was asked to serve on the board, I couldn't refuse.

What is your favorite flower or vegetable and why do like it? I am passionate about Heuchera or Coral Bells. The foliage comes in so many colors—red, peach, lime, and variegated. I would love to start a Heuchera Society someday.



DIANE MADDEN

Treasurer, District III

What is your gardening background?

It is often said that “You are your DNA” and in my case, it’s absolutely true.

My gardening background began as a toddler following my grandma, a peasant farmer from the Ukraine, around in our garden picking beans,

cukes, and tomatoes and placing them in the apron she always wore tied around her waist. I soon learned how to tend a flower garden and take care of the houseplants that sat on every window sill in the house. For a while, I worked with my sister who had a business growing perennials and selling them to local garden centers. Wherever we lived, no matter how small the property, I always had both a vegetable and a flower garden.

When we moved to North Greenbush from New Jersey ten years ago we didn’t know a single soul. I saw an ad in the local advertiser for the Greenbush Garden Club. I attended a meeting and found everyone there to be so nice and friendly and nature lovers just like me. I had finally found my element. I became a Rensselaer County Master Gardener in 2012 and found that also to be a great source of information and inspiration.

What inspired you to be a Board Member? After I attended a few Third District Meetings and State Meetings, I made more friends and learned more about the organization’s inner workings. I was inspired to join the Third District Board because, as I saw in my own garden club, members were aging or moving out of the area. There were positions to be filled and fewer people to fill them. I strongly support the aims and goals of the Federated Garden Clubs, their projects, and programs, and want to see it flourish. Society and technology have changed and I feel it is necessary for our organization to evolve. I hope I can help with that also.

What is your favorite flower or vegetable and why do like it? My favorite flowers are dahlias, especially the dinner plates. They come in myriad colors and varieties and have tremendous flowers.



MARIE

CELESTE

*Assistant Treasurer,
District III*

What is your gardening background?

I grew up in the countryside, in Slingerlands, where fresh vegetables were grown, with lots of fruit trees surrounding our house, with all kinds of flowers and that was my inspiration for gardening.

What inspired you to be a Board Member? Many members of our Greenbush Garden Club were board members and I wanted to help out and be active.

What is your favorite flower or vegetable and why do like it?

My favorite flower would be anything that attracts butterflies and bees. I like to take pictures of their activity on the flowers.

The May-Apple

by Lynne Arnold, District III Wildflower Chair

Podophyllum peltatum



I thought I would share a wonderful wildflower, *Podophyllum peltatum*, the May-Apple. This unique groundcover makes a mysterious appearance in April, with the tip of its furred leaves, pushing up through the soil, looking like the end of an umbrella. It’s likened

to a pod, thus the *Podophyllum* genus. It continues to resemble an umbrella as one large, waxy white flower appears beneath this double stem umbrella.

In the summer it is replaced by an edible yellowish lemon like fruit 1½-2 inches long. Both the leaves and the roots of this plant are poisonous if eaten. Mandrake is one of its many local names. It is found in rich woods, pastures, and up to 3,000-foot altitude.

The roots are used for many medicinal treatments and two semi-synthetic derivatives are used in chemotherapy. Sales of the two compounds exceed \$200 million dollars per year.

The fruit is the non-poisonous part of the plant but must be fully ripened and seeds removed before ingestion. I have seen recipes for may-apple jelly.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING IN THE GARDEN

by Maryann Weber, District III Landscape Design Chair

We're into that glorious time of year when trees bud out and many flowering shrubs burst into bloom. All but a few late-to-wake-up perennials have emerged from their dormancy, and most of your favorite annuals are available in area nurseries. Barring an unlikely very late freeze, it's safe to plant them.

Garden clubs, churches, and other organizations have their annual spring plant sales this month. These are good places to learn about plants that do well in our area and often to get cultivation information that can be difficult to pick up elsewhere. When you see a great many of the same plant, this might be a sign that it does a little (or a lot) too well in this area. These garden thugs can be frustratingly hard to get rid of.

How have last year's shrub and perennial plantings come through the winter? Are they vigorous, or do they look a little limp? And what about the size? Most of us have at least a little susceptibility to instant gratification. This deutzia was a perfect size and in the perfect spot last year. Now the area is already starting to look crowded, and the deutzia is the principle culprit. Pruning may help a little, but the only real answer is to move it—while you still can. My husband used to say—not entirely facetiously—that I should only buy plants that come on wheels, making all the relocating I'm inclined to do less stressful.

I hope many of you—all, actually—are keeping a garden journal, preferably illustrated. These records come in handy in so many ways. Did you actually plant tall daffodils in front of your low-growing tarda tulips? (I blame a squirrel with a short memory span.) In a typical year, when do your grape hyacinths emerge? Did monthly spraying keep your phlox paniculata free from powdery mildew last summer? Which of your flowers and shrubs did particularly well in fall?

If you're looking for new ideas both in designs of beds and types of plants, *Fine Gardening* magazine has a website: (www.finegardening.com) you might enjoy. Most days it publishes pictures and a short blurb from gardeners in many different areas, with many different tastes.



ANNOUNCING NEW CHAIRMAN FOR WORLD GARDENING

by Gary Barrack, Director

I have appointed our new Assistant Treasurer to take on the role of Chairman for World Gardening—Water for South Sudan.

Effective immediately, all donations to World Gardening should be mailed to:

Marie Celeste, World Gardening Chairman
39 Donegal Ave.
Troy, NY 12180

Checks should be made payable to **'FGCNYS World Gardening.'**

It has been a pleasure to have been your WG Chairman for the past six years. Your generosity to this worthy cause has been overwhelming. The clubs of the Third District have raised over \$3,400 in 2016 alone, and have been tops in donations for World Gardening for many years. To date, over 22 wells have been drilled bringing fresh water to over 10,000 people in South Sudan, thanks to your continued support. Please contact Marie for additional information or brochures on the World Gardening project for your respective clubs.



A RECAP ON THE CAPITAL DISTRICT FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

by Diane Madden

For the second year Federated Garden Clubs' Third District participated in the Capital District Garden and Flower Show at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy held on March 24, 25, and 26. This year we shared the booth and the cost with the clubs from Fourth District.

The weather was cold, windy and rainy most of the time and yet the very dedicated members of our clubs, some coming from quite a distance, showed up to staff the booth. There were a total of 16 volunteers representing seven clubs. I'd like to express my profound appreciation to the three other committee members worked with me to assure the information/membership drive was a success. Thank you, Maureen McNamara, Cathy Fruhauf, and Judy Esposito.

The booth was located in a much busier location than last year. It was situated in the area with the other plant society/educational exhibits. We saw many of our old neighbors and made a few new contacts as well. At times a human tidal wave passed in front of the table. Many club members took a break from shopping at the vendor booths stopped by just to say howdy.

Our area was beautifully decorated with plants and gardening items. The pansies in small baskets generated a lot interest and conversation. The FGCNYS seal was hung on the curtain at the back of the booth. A map with pins indicating the location of our various clubs was set on the table. Judy Esposito, Fourth District Director, provided a beautiful display board that highlighted the Federated Clubs' projects and programs. A handout containing contact information for all the clubs was available for people who expressed an interest in joining a club. Jean Dearstynne brought three large containers of flowers from Trader Joe's that we handed out to people who stopped at the table.

A door prize was offered, with the prize being a \$25 gift certificate to the winner's favorite garden center. There were 416 entries. The winner was from Schoharie County and not a member of a garden club. She opted for a gift certificate to Tractor Supply. Cathy Fruhauf will distribute the door prize tickets completed by people who indicated that they would be interested in attending a program or joining a club to the appropriate county chair or club president so they may contact that person.

Several of our members participated in the flower show and even won ribbons.

Cindy Campbell— Pirates' Booty, Third place and People's Choice Award

Craig Walz— Pirates Booty, Honorable Mention; Walking Dead-Down the Aisle, Second place

Marilyn Ryan— Denim and Diamonds, Honorable Mention

I presented a program on Xeriscape Gardening, gardening without supplemental watering, in one of the classrooms to defray some of the cost. The total cost of the booth for the full three days including the printing and door prize was \$247.47. For our 26 clubs plus the six clubs from Fourth District, that works out to only \$7.74 per club to distribute their information.

Hopefully the result of this effort will be an increase in membership. Most importantly, we got Federated Garden Clubs name "out there" and dispelled the erroneous public perception that we're only about tea parties, picture hats, and flower arranging, although it's nice to do that too!



Diane Madden and Joan Giordano of Greenbush Garden Club were on hand to answer questions at the booth.



Flowers were handed out to people who stopped at the table.



Cathy Fruhauf, from Country Garden Club of Clifton Park, at the booth.

Awards



by Patricia Blundell, Awards Coordinator

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS AWARDS:

Publications Award:

First Place: Greenbush Garden Club

Garden Therapy:

Medium Club:

First Place: Greenbush Garden Club

Large Club:

First Place: Garden Club of Kinderhook

Historic Decorations:

First Place: Garden Club of Kinderhook

Flower Show Citations:

Award of Participation for Submitting Flower Show Book of Evidence:

Germantown Garden Club

Garden Club of Kinderhook

Flower Show Schedule Awards:

First Place: Garden Club of Kinderhook,

"This Land is Your Land"

Second Place: Germantown Garden Club,

"An Apple a Day"

World Gardening Citations:

Athens Community Garden Club

Clematis Garden Club

Garden Club of Kinderhook

Garden Explorers Garden Club

Greenbush Garden Club

Greenport Garden Club

Glen Oaks Garden Club

New Paltz Garden Club

Guilderland Garden Club

Schoharie Valley Garden Club

Shawangunk Garden Club

Shawangunk Garden Club is the recipient of a **Special State Award** as the Largest Contribution Club for District III. The club also received **The Lucy Staley World Gardening Award**, which is a check from the District in the amount of \$25.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION AWARDS:

Flower Show Schedule Awards:

Second Place: Germantown Garden Club, "The Romance of the Garden"

Publicity Press Book Awards:

Medium Club:

Second Place: Germantown Garden Club

Group of Member Clubs:

First Place: Garden Clubs of Columbia County

Congratulations and thanks to all the clubs that shared their projects with me.



Congratulations to all the winners at our Spring District meeting.

Highlights from the District III Spring Meeting



Pat Wania installs the new officers for District III. L. to R. Pat Wania, former State President; New Director Gary Barrack; 1st Assistant Director, Merril-Lee Lenegar; 2nd Assistant Director, Elizabeth Walker; Correspondence Secretary, Catherine Fruhauf; Recording Secretary, Jean Horn; Treasurer, Diane Madden; Assistant Treasurer, Marie Celeste.



Members of the Greenport Garden Club man the registration table.



New Third District Director Gary Barrack.



Carole Garvar sets up the raffle table



The speaker was author Tovah Martin who gave a presentation on "The Indestructible Houseplant."



A photo exhibit about the Third District's participation in the Capital District Garden and Flower Show was on display.



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After perusing the catalog click on 'Shop', click on 'Fast Shop' and place your order. They have a huge selection of bulbs, plants, perennials, supplements, books, tools, and home accessories... anything you want or need!

If you see something you like in another catalog, just give Brent & Becky's a call and see if they have it too.

It's as easy as a click or a phone call and a percentage of your sales come back to support FGCNYS!

Don't wait to order your fall bulbs!

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

At the March meeting of the Germantown Garden Club award-winning author, Bettina Mueller gave a slide presentation on 'Creating a Tea Garden.' Her book *A Tea Garden in Tivoli* was a silver award winner for Best Garden Book of 2016. The presentation focused on the Japanese garden aesthetic and how to create a tea garden in our own backyard. She discussed the design elements that make a roji, a traditional Japanese tea garden, and gave us tips on how to make this type of garden in a small space. A lively question and answer period followed. A book signing ended the presentation.

Our April meeting was held at the home of designer and professional gardener Michele Decker. The program topic for the day was 'Hands-on Pruning 101.' Michele gave a talk about pruning including the different tools needed, their uses, and the different techniques used when pruning trees, shrubs, evergreens, and perennials. The group was then treated to a walk through Michele's garden where she demonstrated different ways that various trees and shrubs need to be pruned in order to maintain them as beautiful and healthy specimens. Our club's meeting agenda included a discussion of the May Bird Walk and plans for the upcoming Annual Plant Sale, which will be held on May 20.

At the Third District meeting on April 20, the Germantown Garden Club was presented with four awards for the work the club and its members have done to foster the goals of National Garden Clubs. From FGCNYS, the club received a second place award for their 2016 Flower Show Schedule "An Apple A Day," as well as an Award of Participation for submitting a Flower Show Book of Evidence for this event. From the National Garden Clubs, Central Atlantic Region, the club received second place for their publicity Press Book and we were awarded second place for our 2015 Flower Show Schedule "The Romance of the Garden."

Meanwhile, a group of members has started a committee to revitalize the gardens at the Palatine Parsonage. Member Gloria Cestero-Hurd is the chair and has shown so much enthusiasm for this project by organizing a group of workers. So far they have had a spring clean-out of the grounds and they have potted up many plants for our upcoming plant sale. Gloria has had much success with organizing a group to get things done to make sure that the grounds of one of our town's historical place looks great.



On the right speaker Bettina Mueller and two garden club guests.



Pictured is professional gardener Michele Decker



Women at work! Members (r to l) Gloria Cestero-Hurd, chair of the Civic Development committee and members Connie Caputo with shovel and Maureen Lockwood attending the Spring Clean-up at the Palatine Parsonage.

GREENPORT GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

Healthy Organic Gardening Workshop

The Greenport Garden Club held a workshop for its membership on 'Companion Planting—Tips and Tricks for your Organic Vegetable Garden.' Stephanie Teator, a certified Nutrition and Health Coach from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, presented methods and health benefits of organic vegetable gardening. Topics included: beneficial herbs, soil preparation, wildlife control, flower and herb companion planting, and the importance of organic gardening for our health. Stephanie consults and assists seasoned and new gardeners in establishing and maintaining their organic gardens. Stephanie invites interested gardeners to reach her at happybellyhealthcoaching@gmail.com.

Greenport Gardeners Load Up Bags Full of Food For Homeless

The Greenport Garden Club collected non-perishable foods to be distributed to local children in need in the Hudson City School District. The club collaborated with Hudson Jr. High School Social Worker Tara McSherry-Wolfe, who coordinates programs for homeless children and their families in the Hudson area. The Greenport Garden Club voted to have the collection of donations to become an on-going event as needed throughout the year. "Aside from being gardeners in the community we also want to give in other ways. We know there is a need for homeless children and their families and with community resources tight our club's donations will help in some way" stated club president Kathy Bucholsky.

Report from the Philadelphia Flower Show

by Kathy Bucholsky

Having gone to the Philadelphia Flower Show only made me wish for spring to come sooner, not to mention the blizzard of 2017 when I got home. The theme for this year's Philadelphia Flower Show was 'Holland' and was perfect for our anticipating spring. Spring was in the air with thousands and thousands of tulips everywhere plus the usual daffodils and hyacinths. Bicycles were hanging from the ceilings, bridges were crossing walkways, and water fountains were sparkling. I almost felt like I was actually in Holland.

The flower show was spectacular though overwhelming and crowded. I felt I really needed two days at the show rather than one. My bus excursion was for an overnight stay, but the first day was spent at Longwood Gardens. This place too was marvelous. I would like to go back in nicer weather when the outside flowers would be in bloom. It was very cold and windy walking to the buildings, much more advisable in the spring and summer. They do a magnificent job. I traveled by Yankee Trails, which included a delicious prime rib dinner at our hotel. I definitely will make it a point to attend again next year.



Above left: Organic Workshop. Pictured are Carolyn West, Sylvia Macheski, Stephanie Teator and Angela Rapp



Above right: Donations for Homeless: Pictured Cindi Hockenberry and Carolyn West.

GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Merril-Lee Lenegar

The Guilderland Garden Club was represented again this year at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show held March 24–26 at the Hudson Valley Community College. Craig Waltz won a second place ribbon for his entry in Class 7, Walking Dead Down the Aisle, and also a ribbon for his entry in Pirate’s Booty. Members of the club participated with other representatives from Districts III and IV of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. at a booth to provide visitors to the show with information about garden clubs in Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer Counties.

At the April meeting of the Garden Club, Rosemary Burgher, Master Gardener from Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension, gave a presentation on how to create container gardens for flowers, vegetables, and herbs. Following her presentation, members and guests enjoyed refreshments and had an opportunity to speak further with Rosemary about gardens.

On April 28, members went on a field trip to SUNY Cobleskill to meet with Dr. George Crosby, Professor, and Instructor of Botany, Hydroponics, and Greenhouse Management. We toured the greenhouse and learned about careers in agriculture.

On May 8, we met at the Gade Farm for a presentation by Amy Castillo on Go Native. Her presentation addressed the importance of incorporating native plants in the garden and the difference between native “species” and “cultivars.”

For information about these and other scheduled programs visit our website at www.guilderlandgardenclub.com.



The club’s entries at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show.

ANNOUNCING NEW FLOWER SHOW RULES AND CHANGES

by Barbara Campbell,
District III Yearbook Chair

I attended a symposium on the new *Handbook for Flower Shows* and have developed a power point program for District III clubs. I would be happy to present this at any meeting of your club at no cost except \$10 for gas and tolls.

This is a great way for club members to see what changes National has set forth for future flower shows. Clubs will love it. It is much more club friendly. For example, did you know that you can have a horticulture only show?

CHANGES TO MAKE

Please correct following errors in the new *Handbook for Flower Shows*.

Page 22: In the chart, line 9: Replace ‘Section’ with ‘Division’

Page 31: X Division—Botanical Arts. Change Chapter ‘11’ to Chapter ‘10’ under 1. General rules: d., e., f., and g.

Page 46: In the chart, under the ‘Awarded to:’ column for the Arboreal Award, the text should read, “Cut branches of trees and/or shrubs and/or container grown branches.”

Page 47: In the second chart, the Educational Award second box should read ‘Division’ not ‘Section’

Page 83: #30. Veiling: Second line: change ‘threats’ to ‘threads’

Page 83: #33. Wiring: change ‘enserting’ to ‘inserting’

HUGH PLAT GARDEN CLUB

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

by Mary Ann DeFonce

The Hugh Plat Garden Club held its election of officers on January 20th at the home of club member Mary Ann DeFonce. At this meeting, we also set up our calendar for the year and chose our meeting topics.

Our February 16th meeting, held at the home of club secretary Fran Scrafford, was so enjoyable. When we meet at the home of a club member we each bring a brown bag lunch, and our hostess provides coffee and dessert. On this cold February day we all brought book suggestions, magazine articles, Pinterest saves, and whatever we might find to jump-start fresh ideas for spring and summer gardening. Food, friends, and sharing! What's not to like?

March 24–26 was the 30th Capital District Garden and Flower Show at Hudson Valley Community College. This year's theme was Diamonds & Pearls.

Our April 21 meeting was a field trip to the Gade Farm in Guilderland. This is always a well attended and much-enjoyed activity. April was FRIENDSHIP MONTH, so club president Sue Bushman encouraged us to BRING A FRIEND to the meeting. What a great way to encourage a friend to join a garden club! We each produced a pretty planter full of annuals. Gade Farm's own Amy Castillo spoke on the care of annuals, how to create beautiful color combinations, sun and shade plants, and the importance of dead-heading. You've all heard of the veritable font of information? That's our Amy!



Above: One of our fairy gardens.

Top: Flowers at the Gade farm.

Left: HUGH PLAT members last year at Gade Farms, with our fairy gardens.

Bottom: Amy Castillo talking to us about annuals and how to create beautiful color combinations with them.



THE GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Heaney

The Garden Club of Kinderhook held a meeting on March 21 with a bittersweet goodbye to member Sue Chiafullo. Sue is moving to South Carolina. The club enjoyed the delicious cake ordered by Tina Lang.

The highlight of the meeting was a tablescape contest. Carrying through with the Club's current theme of "trees," a floral competition was held based on "Into the Woods." Eight members entered designs depicting the lighter and/or darker side of fairy tales. Members voted for their favorites in three categories. Roseann Antonovich's creation was a crowd-pleaser in two of the categories, "Enchanted" and "Who's Afraid.?" Nancy Clark took the prize in "Happily Ever After." Winners received bottles of wine and all participants received candy from Vasilow's In Hudson, NY.

On April 11, the club held their Spring Meeting and Installation Lunch. The event happened at the Columbia Golf & County Club in Claverack. Club members had a delicious lunch. New members were given flower bouquets and club pins.

Renata Benenati installed the 2017–2018 officers: Secretary Carol Seastrand, Treasurer Susan Sweet, Second Vice President Eileen McHugh-Szepessy, First Vice President Maryann Weber, and returning President Sandra Wooding.

To celebrate Earth Day, flowers were donated to the Kinderhook Memorial Library by the club.



Tina Lang, Sue Chiafullo and the goodbye cake.



Past Club president Renee Benenati (far left) installed the officers for the 2017/2018 year. Our new board is: Marge Calyer; Sandy Wooding; Maryann Weber; Eileen McHugh Szepessy; Marge Laurie; Sue Sweet; DeNola Perreten; and Carol Seastrand. Looking forward to a fun and productive year!



Matt Pavloff, Young Adult Librarian and member Wendy Power Spielmann with the flowers that were donated to the Kinderhook Library.



New members: Kathy Albert; Sue Sherwood; Laurie Kelly; Eileen Brennan; Jean Bulick; Deborah Moore; and Paula Pugliese.

SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTY

by Agnes Rapoli

This year the Schoharie Valley Garden Club (SVGC) recognizes and celebrates Marie Muller for 50 years of outstanding dedication, service, and leadership. Marie joined the SVGC in 1967 as a young woman with small children. Despite the demands of family and motherhood, she has been a steadfast and unwavering member of the club for 50 years. Marie has served in numerous positions throughout her tenure, most notably as Club President (a.k.a. “Head Weed” by her beloved son) for several terms. She has also served at the District level including six years as County Chair overseeing club activities for both Greene and Schoharie Counties. Several years ago she was Third District Director for two years, with responsibility for 37 clubs and also was a member of the Board. Currently, Marie serves as the SVGC treasurer, meticulously managing the club’s fiscal solvency. Clearly, Marie’s career with SVGC and Federated Garden Clubs of NYS is long and storied.

Our membership would like to express our sincere gratitude to Marie for her tireless dedication to our club. With 50 years of experience under her belt, she has helped us chart our course each and every year, eagerly sharing her knowledge, advice, and creative ideas. We also appreciate Marie’s welcoming and generous spirit, always ready to open her home (and often providing lunch and tea) for countless committee meetings and special events. Marie is also always ready to drive if someone needs a ride – it’s never too far for an SVGC activity! Thank you, Marie, for all you have contributed to SVGC over the years. You have worked tirelessly for our club, with a dedication that is unmatched! You are one in a million!



Marie Muller, Past District Director, and Maureen Nippert, Club Member at work promoting the Schoharie Valley Garden Club.

Flower Show

The club will be holding our Flower Show on June 10 and 11. The theme is ‘Flowers in Film’ and will be part of our town-wide celebration commemorating the birth of the street movie/drive-in movie that our town is recognized for. You can see the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vc5PrIGhDvU>.

In keeping with the street movies theme, arrangements will reflect “Flowers in Film” which will encompass films with flowers used in their titles such as “Please Don’t Eat the Daisies.” Arrangements will be displayed in the DAR House, 262 Main St. in Schoharie.

Million Pollinator Garden Challenge

The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge (MPGC) is a nationwide call to action to preserve and create gardens and landscapes that help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other pollinators across America.

The MPGC mobilizes America’s extensive gardening community and supports them in making more native and noninvasive pollen and nectar producing plants available in their gardens. The Challenge increases their understanding of the critical role that such actions can play in reversing declining pollinator populations.

Pollinator gardens should

- use plants that provide nectar and pollen sources
- provide a water source,
- be situated in sunny areas with wind breaks
- create large “pollinator targets” of native or noninvasive plants
- establish continuous bloom throughout the growing season
- eliminate or minimize the impact of pesticides.

Sign up here and learn more about this important program: www.pollinator.org/programs.htm

GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

Carole Garvar, Chair

ATHENS COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB

On June 15 the club will be traveling to Hildene, the Lincoln Family Farm located in Manchester, Vermont to view more than 1,000 peony blossoms in the formal gardens. The guided tour will be followed by a catered lunch on site. Transportation will be by bus. Contact Mimi Greenfield at 518-945-1635 for information and reservations.

On August 17 members will have a guided tour of Yaddo Garden followed by lunch in Saratoga.

The club meets on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church located at 102 North Washington Street in Athens. Guests are always welcome. Contact President Katherine Montague at 718-637-3101 for information regarding the club.

CLEMATIS GARDEN CLUB

On May 27 the club will hold its annual Plant Sale at Country Square in Greenville.

On June 2, a bus trip to the home of Edith Wharton, The Mount located in Lenox, Massachusetts is planned. A tour of the gardens

and mansion will be followed by lunch at the Red Lion Inn. Contact Marie Hennings at 518-239-4000 for information and reservations.

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at the Greenville Library. Contact President Jean Horn at 518-966-4260 for information regarding the club.

SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

On June 7, the club is planning a bus trip to the Cornell Plantations Garden in Ithaca, NY.

June 10-11; Flower Show: "Celebration Under the Stars: Flowers in Film." To take place at Lasell Hall (a.k.a. Schoharie DAR House), 262 Main Street, Schoharie.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m.

Contact President Anne Bielawski at 518-295-8809 for information regarding the club.

Save the Date!



Federated Garden Clubs of New York State 67th Fall Conference and Meeting

September 18–19, 2017

Best Western Plus, 503 Washington Ave.,
Kingston, NY 12401

**'PLANT AMERICA—
FOR A CLEANER, GREENER, AND HEALTHY WORLD'**

Guest Speakers: DR. GEORGE CROSBY, SYLVIA HASENKOPF, MICHELE PETERS

Dr. Crosby is a member of the plant science faculty at SUNY Cobleskill. He teaches courses in botany, greenhouse management, and vegetable production.

Sylvia Hasenkopf is a professional historian, genealogist, author, and lecturer specializing in the historic Hudson River Valley. Her expertise includes projects for historic sites which results in their being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Michele Peters has been playing with flowers for over 30 years. She is the owner/designer of Ambiance Floral and Events located in Albany, NY. Her shop specializes in weddings and special events. She is Certified Floral Designer.

Clubs Calendar 2017

May 18–20

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

June 4–10

National Garden Club Week

June 10–11

Germantown Garden Club Flower Show 'Gardens, Gardens,
Gardens'

Palatine Parsonage, 52 Maple Ave., Germantown, NY

June 10–11

Schoharie Valley Garden Club Flower Show 'Flowers in Film'
DAR House, 262 Main St., Schoharie, NY

June 28–29

FGCNYS, Inc. Tri-Refresher

Hilton Garden Inn, 1389 Washington Ave. Albany, NY

September 7

Third District Field Trip

Wethersfield House and Gardens, Millbrook, NY

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.

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* is now 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.

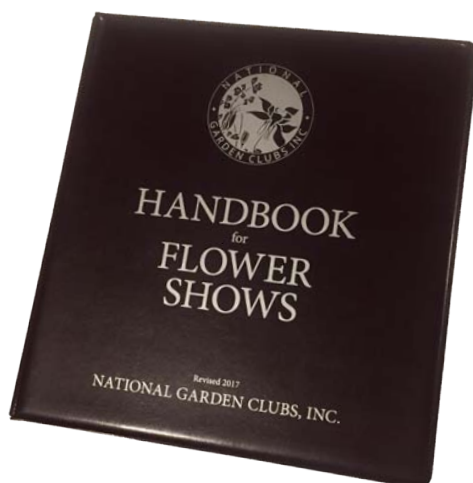
Club presidents and members are encouraged to place orders. Having a club program to become familiar with the information in the 2017 edition of the NGC *Handbook for Flower Shows* is highly recommended.

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



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.

To access *The Digest*, go to the State website—fgcnys.com—select District III on the home page and then select *Digest Online*.

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Inc.

21 A Brookedge
Guilderland, N.Y. 12084-9110
Phone: 518-869-6311



To: All Federated Garden Club Members

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State is sponsoring a Tri-Refresher to be held in Albany, NY on June 28-29, 2017. This refresher will be held following our Summer Board Meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1389 Washington Avenue, Albany. The course will begin on Wednesday afternoon, June 28, 2017 with a dinner break and lectures until 8 PM. The next day, the class will be held at the nearby Pine Bush Preserve, a New York State park facility.

National Garden Clubs values the importance of education and we hope that club members can come and enjoy this unique learning experience. Members do not have to be a Gardening Study, Landscape Design or Environmental Consultant to attend the course. It is open to all our garden club members. Our theme this term is "Plant America, for a cleaner, greener and healthier world". These days we are more aware of the need for a cleaner environment, for greening or re-greening our communities, and in general our need to plant for a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. Reconciliation Ecology is part of this new awareness and stresses gardening with purpose and habitat restoration to encourage beneficial insects, pollinators, birds and mammals to protect our environment. To that end, we have interesting speakers and topics that support the goals of NGC and will cover each study area during the course. Topics include Urban Landscape Design, NYS Environmental Legislation, Geology and Preservation of the Pine Bush Preserve with a tour of the preserve, Gardening in a Changing Climate, Native Plants and Rain Gardens.

Eileen DeRicco, Environmental Studies Schools Chairman, Antoinette Babb, Landscape Design School Chairman and Victoria Bellias, Gardening Study Schools Chairman are involved and will help with registration and course details to ensure that registered students receive their accreditation credentials upon attendance. There are some students who are due to refresh in 2017 and this course will be particularly timely for them.

We hope that you will join us for this special event as we join together to "Plant America, for a cleaner, greener and healthier world". A course brochure/registration is included in this mailing. We look forward to seeing you there.

Monica C. Hansen
President, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State

REGISTRATION
Tri-Refresher Albany
Federated Garden Clubs of NYS
June 28 and June 29, 2017



NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/TOWN

STATE

ZIP

E-mail

PHONE

GARDEN CLUB

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB NYS
MEMBER: YES NO

Check the applicable selection:

_____ \$90 Full course refresher for
credit

_____ \$85 Full course lectures no credit

_____ \$70 FGCNYS Life Member
(limit one reduced course per year)

Dinner for Wednesday, June 28 and
lunch for Thursday, June 29 is included
with registration.

Registration closes June 15, no refunds
after June 15. Make checks payable to:
FGCNYS, Inc. (tri-refresher in memo)

Mail completed form with check to
Registrar:
Eileen De Ricco
4 Tulip Court
Moriches Bay, NY 11955-1900
631-878-1481

Tri-Refresher Albany
Federated Garden Clubs of NYS
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Environmental Studies Schools
Gardening Studies Schools
Landscape Design Schools

FGCNYS President
Monica Hansen

Albany Tri-Refresher Chairman
Victoria Bellias

Wednesday, June 28, 2017
Hilton Garden Inn
1389 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
(518)453-1300

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS:
\$119.00/night + taxes
FGCNYS Group Reservation
Please reserve 5/27/17

Thursday, June 29, 2017
Albany Pine Bush Preserve
195 New Karner Road
Albany, New York 12205
Phone: (518) 456-0655

<http://www.albanypinebush.org>

TRI-REFRESHER ALBANY
CURRICULUM

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

2:30 p.m. Registration

2:45 p.m. Welcome

**3:00 p.m. "Urban Landscape: Yesterday,
Today and Tomorrow"**

Barbara Campbell

5:00 p.m. Dinner

6:00 p.m. "NYS Environmental Legislation"

Steve Englebright

**7:00 p.m. "Geology & Preservation of the
Albany Pine Bush Preserve"**

Steve Englebright

Thursday, June 29, 2017

9:30 a.m. Registration

9:45 a.m. Welcome

**10:00 a.m. "Tour of Pine Bush Preserve
Ecosystem Trail"**

Jacqueline Citriniti

**11:00 a.m. "Gardening with Native Plants in
the Landscape"**

Sandra Zwink

12:00 p.m. Lunch

**1:00 p.m. "Rain Garden Basics for
Homeowners"**

Sue Pezzolla

**2:00 p.m. "Gardening in a Changing
Climate"**

Martha Teumim

INSTRUCTORS

Steve Englebright, NYS Assembly
Steve is the chairman of the Committee on Environmental Conservation. Assemblyman Englebright's background in science and education brings an important perspective to the State Legislature. With professional training as a geologist and biologist, Assemblyman Englebright's skill at translating technical concepts and findings into innovative public policy has enabled him to help shape laws that have practical relevance to our lives and health.

Barbara Campbell
Barbara is a NGC Landscape Design Instructor and a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener. She is a FGCNYS Former President 2005-2007 and currently is serving as FGCNYS Webmaster, NGC Member Services Chairman and Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs Recording Secretary. She retired after 32 years service in the New Paltz School District.

Jacqueline Citriniti
Jackie Citriniti has worked as an environmental Educator at the Pine Bush Preserve for many years. She has been an educator for over 25 years and for the past 16 years she has found her passion as a naturalist and environmental educator and truly enjoys exciting all individuals, young and old, to connect with the natural world around them.

Sandra Zwink
Sandra Zwink, owner of Sandra S. Walck Garden Design has been creating beautiful and ecologically sound habitats for people and other fauna throughout the Capital District for the last 30 years. Sandra is a graduate of Landscape Design program at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and a Master Gardener. She has served on board of directors for Pine Hollow Arboretum and Capital Roots, taught at the Landis Arboretum and The Art Center of the Capital Region. Her true joy has been landscaping at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center.
Bring photos and description of your habitat.

Sue Pezzolla
Sue Pezzolla has been a Cornell Cooperative Extension Community Horticulture Educator in Albany County since 2003 and is now recently retired. Helping local gardeners to be more successful has been the mission and teaching and writing about horticulture has been the vehicle. Before coming to CCE, Sue worked for eleven years at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham, NY.

Martha (Martie) Teumim
Martha (Martie) Teumim has been an Albany County Master Gardener since 1982. During the past several years she has been part of a Cornell-based team which studied the topic of climate change and created educational products on the subject. Martie is a retired English teacher who, now that the two girls are grown, lives with her husband and two cats.

*Environmental Studies Schools
Chairperson:
Eileen DeRicco
4 Tulip Court
Moriches Bay, NY 11955-1900
631-878-1481
eileendericco@gmail.com*

*Gardening Studies Schools Chairperson:
Victoria Bellias
11 Black Duck Drive
Stony Brook, NY 11790-1123
631-689-7337
vikkibellias@gmail.com*

*Landscape Design Schools Chairperson:
Antoinette Babb
125 West Bridge Street
Saugerties, NY 12477-1419
845-246-4445
aplantlady1011@hotmail.com*

Limit 50 persons for this course, students taking course for credit receive priority reservations.

Students must complete NGC Multiple Refresher form 2-14. Out of state students should inform their state chairman.

Only Master Consultants may receive credit for multiple courses in the areas where they have Master status. Single course credit given until master status is achieved.