

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



MAY 2018

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Editor's Note

Spring is finally here in our gardens. It has been a rough winter. We had so much snow and cold weather in January and February. And even into March and April! In fact, I was visiting my sister, who lives in the Catskills and it was snowing on April 29!

I have been perusing my gardens daily to see what plants are coming up and which are blooming. I am a little worried as it seems I have some perennials that are not emerging. I look daily to see if any tender shoots are appearing. It looks like my Shasta Daisies and my white Coneflowers have not made it. I know that Coneflowers can be iffy, but I thought Shasta Daisies were indomitable. So much for what winter purges from our gardens.

But that's OK. I will visit all my favorite garden centers and get inspiration, and yes, new plants to replace the ones I lost. I'll call it a learning experience and that will help me justify the expense. Wink, wink!

Here in Columbia County, where I garden, we are having an invasion of the Jumping Worm. This invasive earthworm reproduces and spreads rapidly and has the potential to cause environmental damage. I have included information about this pest at the end of the newsletter.

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 garden clubs of the Third District have started the 2018 Garden Club year with a new sense of purpose and appear ready to take on the many challenges facing Garden Clubs today. As I read through the many new Yearbooks for the 2018 year, our clubs are fully engaged and focused on promoting the goals and mission of Federated Garden Clubs of New York. Based on my observation, we are doing all the right things with respect to new and innovative programs, activities, community outreach, and civic beautification. I am pleased to report that since our

Fall District meeting, our clubs have recruited a total of 22 new members. This is an incredible accomplishment that will ultimately lead to vibrant growth in future years. Congratulations District III! The best is yet to come!

On April 15–17, 2018, I attended the FGCNYS Annual Meeting in Binghamton, NY. The highlight for me was the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday morning. Of the ten districts in New York State, our Third District clubs received by far the most awards. Seven of our 15 awards were First Place Awards. Most notable was the First Place National Garden Club Press Book Award. These prestigious awards are a testament to the many talented and hard-working members of our District and the great leadership of our past directors and board members. It was a very proud moment for me to represent you at this meeting.



Here I am at the Annual Meeting in Binghamton accepting awards from NYS President Monica Hansen (left) and NYS Awards Coordinator Jeanne Nelson (right).

(from pg. 1)

Our Spring District Meeting was a huge success with over 100 members from 18 clubs attending. It was gratifying to see so many members turn out to have a good time after this long and cold winter. Attendance at these events is recognition of your support for your club and for the members of our Board who work tirelessly on your behalf, and for this, I am extremely grateful.

We were very honored to have our State President Monica Hansen attend our Spring District meeting. Her great personality, leadership skills, and friendly demeanor were an inspiration to all. She assisted Awards Chair Patricia Blundell in the presentation of the many awards received by our clubs. A delicious lunch was followed by a presentation on the History of Yaddo Gardens.

Sincerely,

Gary Barrack, Director

YEARBOOK CONTEST

You can't win it until you are in it!

Please send one copy of your Yearbook to me by
June 1, 2018 so it can
be judged.

I would like to see
100% participation!

Send to:
Barbara Campbell
14 Deerpath Dr.
New Paltz, NY 12561

Any questions,
email me at bcdeerpath@aol.com



CLUBS IN DISTRICT III

District Three Clubs, by County

Albany: Blue Creek, Guilderland, Helderview

Columbia: Germantown, Greenport, The Garden Club of Kinderhook

Dutchess: Tioronda

Greene-Schoharie: Athens Community, 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

Third District,
Federated Garden
Clubs of New
York State, Inc.
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NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB INSTALLS BLUE STAR MARKER

Congratulations to the New Paltz Garden Club on the installation and dedication of a Blue Star Marker to honor the members of our Armed Forces. Club president Bonnie Champion and the members of the club really dedicated their time and worked hard to make this happen for the New Paltz community. "It was a proud moment for me as the Third District Director to be part of this dedication," explained Gary Barrack. He went on to thank the New Paltz Garden Club members who made this possible.

The club had been planning this for a long time. Member Barbara Campbell remarked that the "Club has talked about doing this since 1967 when I first joined."

Barbara explained about the process for going about getting one of these markers installed in her community. The club had been planning this for a while and did run into stumbling blocks for getting approval for the site.

Funding in part came from the NGC project 'Sage and Roses,' and the rest of the money was raised by the club. The Highway Department installed the marker for free. The planning for the event was organized by Club President Bonnie Champion and members who had to follow a protocol that is outlined when doing a Blue Star Marker dedication. About 50 people came including veterans and community leaders.

Route 299 in New Paltz is now dedicated as a 'Blue Star Memorial Highway.'



About the Blue Star Memorial Program

The Blue Star Memorial Program honors service men and women. This program began with the planting of 8,000 Dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs adopted the program and began a Blue Star Highway system, which covers thousands of miles across the Continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. A large metal Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was placed at appropriate locations along the way.

The program was expanded to include all men and women who had served, were serving or would serve in the armed services of the United States. Memorial Markers and By-Way markers were added to the Highway Markers, to be used at locations such as National cemeteries, parks, veteran's facilities, and gardens.

The Blue Star became an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes for sons and daughters away at war, as well as in churches and businesses. This program has been active all through the years to the present, a fitting tribute always and especially now.

The Blue Star Memorial Highway signs still look the same with a copper-colored background and the National Garden Clubs logo mounted on top. The blue star is prevalent on the sign, with the wording in gold leaf letters stating that this sign is "A tribute to the Armed Forces that have defended the United States of America." The plaque also designates what garden club sponsored it in cooperation with the state highway department of transportation.

To find out more about the Blue Star Program go to www.gardenclub.org/projects/blue-star-memorials.aspx



Awards



by Patricia Blundell, Awards Chairman

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS AWARDS:

Civic Development:

First Place: Tioronda Garden Club

Historic Decorations:

First Place: Garden Club of Kinderhook

First Place: Guilderland Garden Club

Standard Flower Staged in a Public Building:

Second Place: Germantown Garden Club

World Gardening Citations:

Athens Community Garden Club

Blue Creek Garden Club

Clematis Garden Club

Community Garden Club of Marlborough-on-Hudson

Garden Club of Kinderhook

Greenbush Garden Club

Guilderland Garden Club

H. Gilbert Harlow Garden Club

New Paltz Garden Club

Schoharie Valley Garden Club

Shawangunk Garden Club

World Gardening Citation for Largest Contribution from a Club:

Shawangunk Garden Club

Youth Certificates:

Athens Community Garden Club

E.J. Arthur Elementary School

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION AWARDS:

Publicity Press Book Awards:

Group of Member Clubs (Councils or Districts):

First Place: Garden Clubs of District III

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

HOW TO MAKE SURE YOUR CLUB WINS AWARDS

by Patricia Blundell, Awards Chairman

The May publication of our Third District Digest is a great resource for this Chairman.

QUESTION: Why?

ANSWER: The May issue arrives when club members are busy planning their projects relating to beautifying their Village and so many other Award-worthy projects.

REMINDER: Documenting clubs' projects with photos, etc., should be done at the start of each project and ongoing to completion.

Letters of commendation and newspaper articles are also beneficial. Application for Awards are available via www.fgcny.com

September 1 is the date clubs should notify this Chairman of their 'Intent to Apply' for specific Awards.

October 1 is the date clubs mail completed Awards Application, plus two 8-1/2 x 11 sheets containing documentation of information pertinent to the Award desired. Use of only one side of each sheet is allowed.

Please contact me if you need any additional information at floralartistry01@hvc@rr.com

Phone: 845-246-2611

Mail to this Chairman at 45 Lafayette Street, Saugerties, NY 12477



Highlights from the District III Spring Meeting



The Raffle Table offered many great prizes for those with the lucky tickets. Over \$600 was raised from the sale.



Hedy Qualtere and Camille McComb call out the winning numbers, while Maureen McNamara checks to see who won.



Third District Director Gary Barrack at the podium with FGCNYS, Inc President Monica Hansen.



One of the educational displays featured information about specialty flower shows.



The other display gave information about the Albany Pine Bush, one of the largest of the 20 inland pine barrens in the world.



Awards were given out by Patricia Blundell and Gary Barrack.

Photos by Fran Bufi,
Germantown Garden Club

You're Invited

to the Germantown Garden Club's 90th Anniversary Celebration

90 YEARS AND STILL GROWING

Saturday, July 21, 2-4 p.m.

Hover Room, Germantown Library, Palatine Park Rd., Germantown

The Germantown Garden Club invites all members of District III clubs to attend our 90th Anniversary Celebration which will be held on July 21 at the Germantown Library. We will have speakers, club memorabilia on display, and refreshments.

Founded in 1928 to be an aesthetic, educational, and charitable presence we have strived to carry on, over these past 90 years, the work and dedication to those gardening principles.

The first meeting was held in July 1928. As part of the club's archives is a report written by Anne Jennison in 1935 chronicling the first seven years of the club's history. In this report, we can get a glimpse of a young but enthusiastic group of women who created the basis of what the Germantown Garden Club is today.

Mentioned is a question as to the club living up to "The object of the organization which shall be the advancement of gardening, development of home grounds, and furthering of town beautification, to stimulate an interest in co-operative gardening, to aid in the protection of forest, wildflowers birds, etc." The answer "we have stood for those things and even more." And so it has followed up to today as well.

In 1933, to have a formal gardening organization was considered a 'Garden Club Movement.' At a special meeting in November of that year, the members formally voted to become part of the new organization, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. This move gave the club membership in the National Federation.

It is from this seven-year report that we know that the club held "four spring shows and seven annual fall shows." The tradition of holding an annual flower show continues to this day. The club in May of 1935 had the responsibility of staging the first flower show held in Hudson, in connection with the 'Spring Conference of the Federated Garden Clubs' of the county.

In 1932 club member Mrs. Swenson was honored to receive a prize for the National Yard and Garden Contest by then Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Chief among the accomplishments of the club is the formation of what is now the Germantown Library. From the purchase of a single garden book for a club library in 1929, it grew to 600 volumes in 1947. This was accomplished through donations and club purchases. With the support of town officials, town businesses, and volunteers, the library took shape. On Decoration Day in 1948, the library was dedicated to the town of Germantown.

Over the intervening years, the club has staged an annual Standard Flower Show, provided educational exhibits at both the Columbia and Rhinebeck county fairs, taken field trips to interesting and historic gardens, studied horticulture and have had programs on every imaginable subject related to gardening in any way. A spring plant sale has been held for many years to raise money for a scholarship that is awarded to a graduating high school student, to help support a number of local environmental groups, plus help with the operating expenses of the library, and maintain a members' garden and grounds at the town's historic Palatine Parsonage. Each year an educational exhibit is staged at the Germantown Library. The club has sponsored a Junior Garden Club at the Germantown School both in the early and recent years. Members are currently working with seniors at The Livingston Hills Nursing home as well as with local youth groups. Using historic pictures, calendars were created for 2002, 2004, and 2010. The club printed a cookbook in the 1930's and again in 1999. The latest cookbook included an early brief history of the town and 20th-century memories written by residents, several of them were descendants of the original Palatines who settled in Germantown.

It is with much gratitude that the present members honor all those members that have come before who set such a wonderful example for us to follow.

Please contact Fran Bufi, President at 518-537-4868 or cmfbufi@gtel.net for more information.

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

At our March meeting, the club hosted professional historian, genealogist, author, lecturer, and columnist Sylvia Hasenkopf. She is also an officer of the Cairo Historical Society and chief editor of the quarterly publication, *The Cairo Herald*. Sylvia specializes in the history of the Hudson Valley with a focus on the Colonial and Revolutionary eras. Her expertise includes projects for historic sites such as the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill, NY. Her topic for the meeting was “The History of Wine Making in the Hudson Valley.” Sylvia’s lecture covered the history of wine cultivation over the past 200 years which began as a frustrating hobby and grew into a flourishing business where now it has grown into a powerhouse industry for our area.

Plans were discussed about a spring clean-up at one of the club’s civic projects—the gardens and grounds at the Germantown historic site—the Palatine Parsonage. Also on the agenda was one the club’s main fund-raising events, our annual plant sale. Volunteers signed up to assist members who may need help in digging up shrubs and dividing up their perennial plants for the plant sale.

At our April meeting, the main topic for the day was ‘Container Planting.’ Speaker Ben Eaton is the owner of *The Secret Gardener*, a plant nursery in Hudson, NY. Ben is a master landscape designer, stone mason, and horticulturist. His presentation covered how to design and choose plants for containers as well as decorating patios and hardscapes with them. A lively question and answer period followed the talk. A number of non-members attended the meeting. The meeting also covered the upcoming club events and meetings including the club’s annual luncheon, May 15, plant sale, tag sale, and bake sale at Palatine Park, May 19, and bird walk at Clermont State Historic Site, May 16, and attendance at the April 19 District III Spring Meeting at Moscatiello’s Family Restaurant in Troy, NY.

At the recent District III Spring Meeting and Luncheon, the club was honored to receive awards for our club’s accomplishments. We received the following District III awards: Third Place for Flower Show Schedule, 2016 ‘Gardens, Gardens, Gardens,’ and Second Place for Club Standard Flower Show, ‘Gardens, Gardens, Gardens’ Staged in a Public Building. The club also won First Place for their Press Book from the Federated Garden Clubs of NY State.



On the right, speaker Sylvia Hasenkopf with member Gloria Cestero-Hurd.



*Ben Eaton, owner of *The Secret Gardener* in Hudson, NY.*



Winning awards at the Third District Spring Meeting. Pictured l to r: Members Melanie Nelson, Maureen Lockwood, President Fran Bufi, and Flower Show Co-chairman Irene Clum.

GREENPORT GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

Springtime in Your Garden Workshop

The Greenport Garden Club hosted a workshop for its membership 'Springtime In Your Garden.' With the wrath of this past year's winter, we wholeheartedly welcomed presenter Donna Peterson, Master Gardener and Coordinator of the Horticultural Program at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Hudson and Acra to lead the workshop with tips on effective garden clean up and preparation for spring. Topics also included selecting annuals and perennials for the season and beyond and the invasion of the Alabama Jumping Worm that destroys soil contents and has been found in New York State and in our county, Columbia County, since 2012. This is an invasive earthworm that reproduces and spreads rapidly and has the potential to cause significant environmental damage. Fellow gardeners watch out for this one and check with your local Cornell Cooperative Extension to get more information as they can be confused with our native earthworms.

Planting, Growing, and Composting for Young Gardeners

In collaboration with the Hudson Area Library, the Greenport Garden Club held a workshop for children ages 6–10 on 'Planting, Growing, and Composting for Young Gardeners' on April 8 at the Hudson Area Library. Coordinated by club member Nancy Westbrook and Hudson Area Library Program Director Brenda Shufelt, children participated in hands-on activities that included

planting seeds and cuttings and learning about the importance of composting. Young gardener, Alvelis Cortijo stated, "I like to grow cucumbers and make and eat pickles!" Club members Kathy Bucholsky, Cindy Teator, Barbara Hapeman, Cynthia Atkinson, and Maggie Brower were on hand to assist the enthusiastic young gardeners. Each gardener walked away with their own potted seeds and plants to start their own gardens. "The attendance was fantastic with children, their parents, and grandparents participating. There were children from everywhere, some local and some spending the weekend here. The library is a wonderful place to hold events like this for children," stated Kathy Bucholsky, club president. The Greenport Garden Club's outreach programs are designed to educate the community about being 'green' and follow the club's theme of 'Plant America.'

Also, the club has the following field trips planned:

May 3: Visit to the Secret Garden Nursery in Hudson

May 10: 'Flower Designs' at the DAR in Hudson

May 14–18: Planting of Annuals at the Greenport Town Hall

June 7: Field Trip to Naumkeag National Historic Landmark, Stockbridge, MA

July 12: Field Trip to Clermont State Park



Above left: Springtime in Your Garden Workshop with members Marie Sherman, Angela Rapp, Donna Peterson, Carolyn West, and Nancy Westbrook. Above right: Children and parents participate at the club's workshop at the Hudson Area Library. Below right: Young gardener, Alvelis Cortijo plants cuttings.



GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Merrill-Lee Lenegar

Congratulations to Craig Waltz on winning two prizes for his entries in classes in the Floral Design Competition at the 31st Capital District Garden & Flower Show held at Hudson Valley Community College on March 23–25. He won an Honorable Mention in the class for ‘Royal Couplet,’ which required a parallel arrangement using only shades of purple and lavender. He also won an Honorable Mention in ‘Spring Into Action,’ which was an abstract design incorporating real springs.

The first meeting of the Guilderland Garden Club for the 2018–19 program year was held on March 12 at the Mynderse-Frederick House. Following the business portion of the meeting, Martie Teumim, Master Gardener from Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension, gave a presentation on ‘Awakening the Garden,’ which focused on what we can do this spring to make our gardens shine this summer. Her talk included plants that will attract birds and butterflies and what plants are new for 2018.

The April 9 meeting was very busy. Denise Maurer, Interior Decorator and Master Gardener from Rensselaer County Cooperative Extension, did a beautiful power point presentation on ‘Garden Art,’ explaining how to recycle, reuse, and repurpose items to create art for the garden.

In cooperation with the Guilderland Senior Center, an Art Contest was sponsored by the Guilderland Garden Club for Guilderland seniors and members of the Artist League to create an original design for the cover of our 2018–2019 Yearbook. The winner, Deborah Adams, was announced at the April meeting and was given a \$50 gift card to Arlene’s Artist Supply, a certificate, and a floral arrangement made by a member of the Garden Club. Each of the other participants received a gift card to Price Chopper, a certificate, and an arrangement. A reception followed to celebrate the winner and those who participated in the contest.

The Guilderland Garden Club was one of the 18 clubs who attended the Spring District III Federated Garden Club Meeting, Spring in Bloom, held at Moscatiello’s Restaurant in Troy on April 19. We were pleased to have Monica Hanson, President of the NYS Federated Garden Clubs, as a special guest.



The club’s entries at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show by member Craig Waltz. Above: Royal Couplet. Below: Spring Into Action.



The results of our Art Contest! Linda Miller, Guilderland Garden Club President; Deborah Adams, contest winner; and May Ann Kelly, Director for the Town of Guilderland Senior Services.



At the Spring District meeting. Left to right: Bill Rockenstyre, Barb Norton, Judi Golombiski, Suzanne Waltz, Merrill-Lee Lenegar, Monica Hanson, Linda Miller, Kathy Perrego, Craig Waltz and Carol Samsonoff). Also in attendance from Guilderland Garden Club were Maureen McNamara, Sandy Hill, Nancy Stahl, and Susan Cole.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Cynthia Bogardus

At the annual spring meeting and installation luncheon, officers of the Garden Club of Kinderhook were installed for 2018–2019.

At the luncheon, members received their new yearbooks with details of upcoming meetings and events. Highlights include talks on container gardening, beekeeping, cooking with flowers, and the decorating trends of Dutch settlers. Floral design demonstrations will be offered by Tiny Hearts Farm, Bud's Florist, and Erin Brady. Group outings are planned to Ten Broeck Mansion, Steepletop, Yaddo, and Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory. Something for everyone!

As with other clubs, the Kinderhook club is facing a challenge from the Asian jumping worm in preparing for the annual plant and bake sale, which will take place on May 11 (evening) and May 12 (morning) in the Kinderhook village square. The Club will diverge from the usual practice of digging up plants from their own gardens. We will offer annuals, herbs, and houseplants individually and nicely grouped for Mother's Day. Prettily packaged yummy goodies will be available at the bake sale table. A trash and treasure area will feature garden-related items.

The other main event for Spring is the upcoming flower show, open to the public on June 8 from 3–7 pm and June 9 from noon–4 pm. The theme of 'Playground Floral Fantasies' celebrates the joys of childhood, with designs focused on toys and items used in outdoor play and sports. The show will be held at the Martin H. Glynn Town Hall on Church Street in Valatie.



Our new slate of officers. Pictured from left to right are Eileen McHugh Szepesy, Cindy Van Alstyne, Deborah Moore, Aimee Strunk-Reinboehl, Marge Laurie and Denise Hess, the incoming President. Missing from photo is board member Stephanie Lally.



Our flower show 'Playground Floral Fantasies' will take place on June 8 and 9 at the Martin H. Glynn Town Hall in Valatie.



It's Been a Tough Winter for Bees

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Greenport Garden Club

This certainly has been a tough winter for all of us and we wait for the arrival of spring with great anticipation. But if you think we have had it tough, our bees certainly have had a challenge to survive this past winter. Many beekeepers lost their hives to winter's wrath and the fluctuation of 20 degrees to 50 degrees had its tolls. When it's fifty degrees, bees break up their cluster and move around to the honey stores. If the temperature drops quickly, they do not have time to get back to their cluster and freeze where they are. Bees do better with consistent temperatures being hot

or cold. The other day when we thought spring had arrived (the next day it snowed), the temperature here in Hudson rose to fifty-two degrees and my bees were active bringing pollen in from emerging crocuses, willow, and maple trees. Crocuses are often the first flowers to appear in the spring and bees love them. Plant crocuses in drifts in autumn to provide loads of pollen and nectar for early spring. The purple flower varieties are the most popular with pollinators. The bees will thank you for that with sweet delicious honey.



SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTY

by Agnes Rapoli

Our 4 big events this year include:

May 18–21: Flower show at Schoharie Library, Corner of Bridge Street and Knowler Ave, Schoharie. Theme: ‘Welcoming Spring in Petals, Threads, and Leaves.’ It will be a joint flower and quilt show done in conjunction with the Schoharie quilters’ guild. Activities will include an after-school program for children on Friday that will combine making a fabric covered planter and planting pansies, a Tea on Saturday from 11 am–2 pm in the library’s Blue Room, and a slide show of flowers and gardens on a large monitor throughout the show.

Aug 1–2: An overnight bus trip to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA to see the musical production ‘Jesus.’ Day One will include the show and a smorgasbord dinner at Miller’s Smorgasbord.

Day Two includes return with stops in Binghamton for visits to the Cutler Gardens and Ross Park Zoo. Cost is \$275 for bus, show, lodging, and smorgasbord. Breakfasts and lunches on your own. June 1 is the deadline if you would like to go.

Sep 8: Garage, Plant, and Bake Sale, 9 am–4 pm, Marie Muller’s house at 139 Bridge Street, Schoharie.

Dec 5: Holiday Luncheon and Boutique: ‘Frosty the Snowman,’ Noon–4 pm, Place: To be determined.

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack

The club held its first meeting of the 2018 Garden Club year on March 14, with the installation of new officers, followed by a covered dish supper. The new 2018 Yearbook was distributed to all members, outlining the activities for the coming year.

In April, the club conducted a joint meeting with members of its neighboring Verplanck Garden Club. Joseph Gizzarelli of Devitt’s Garden and Landscaping conducted a very informative program on container gardening to a full house of avid gardeners from both clubs.

The club accepted applications from four new members since March, bringing the total membership to 61. A committee is being formed to make plans for the club’s 90th anniversary in May 2019.



Above: Former FGCNYS Third District Director Clara Lou Gould conducts the Installation of Officers Ceremony for members of the Tioronda Garden Club.

Below: Our new club Officers from left to right: Robert Phillips, Historian; Carol DiMicco, Vice President; Gary Barrack, President; Catherine Cole, Recording Secretary, and Robert Haight, Treasurer.



GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Carole Garvar, Chair

Following a cold and very long winter, we are all looking forward to spring and working in our gardens. Clubs are once again holding regular meetings and events. All clubs have welcomed new members and are open to anyone interested in attending a meeting or event.

SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

After canceling several meetings due to snow, Schoharie Valley is back in the swing of things. Agnes Rapoli has been elected to serve as President for the 2018–2019 term. Her address is 106 Rowe lane, Berne, NY, 12023-3023. Email arapoli@dishmail.net.

Big events scheduled for this year are a Flower Show at the Schoharie Library May 18–21, located at the corner of Bridge Street and Knowler Ave. 'Welcome Spring in Petals, Threads, and Leaves' is a joint flower and quilt show done in conjunction with the Schoharie Quilters Guild.

Activities will include an after-school program for children on Friday, May 18 that will combine making a fabric covered planter and planting pansies and a tea on Saturday, May 19 from 11 am–noon in the library Blue Room.

On August 1–2 the club plans an overnight bus trip to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster PA to see a musical production 'Jesus.' Day One will include the show and dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord. On Day 2 the bus will stop in Binghamton for visits to Cutler Gardens and Ross Park Zoo and then return home. Cost is \$275 for bus, show, lodging, and dinner. Breakfast and luncheons are on your own. Deadline is June 1 for reservations. Contact Agnes for information at 518-872-0250.

September 8 is their annual Garage, Plant and Bake Sale from 9 am–4 pm held at 139 Bridge Street, Schoharie.

CLEMATIS GARDEN CLUB

Clematis Garden Club opened its year on April 20 with the annual Spring Garden Social, featuring speaker Amy Ziffer with a program on 'Cottage Gardens' followed by a luncheon and silent auction. This event is open to the public and always draws new members.

Program schedule for May features Ashley Ritzel who will speak on 'Companion Planting' focusing on multiple uses and functions of plants.

June 2 annual plant sale at Tops County Square, Greenville 9 am–noon. June 8 the club will tour Barbers Farm in Middleburgh preceded by lunch at The Apple Barrel. The farm was established in 1857 and continued through six generations. The highlight will be the tasting room where farm-to-bottle vodka is produced.

On July 13 a trip to Central Park Rose Garden in Schenectady followed by a tour conducted by Connie Schmitz, Union College Gardener, of Jackson's Garden featuring old peonies, geraniums, and

a thyme garden. On August 10 the club's Annual Picnic and Garden Tour will be held in the garden designed by J. Kenneth Dean, plantsman and botanist, located across from Tripp Store at 7901 RT 81, Oak Hill.

Sept. 14 'Adventures in Close-up and Macro Garden Photography' a PowerPoint program by Peter Bowden, popular radio and TV personality.

For information regarding this club contact Jean Horn, president at 518-966-4260.

ATHENS COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB

In March, Cathie Gifford, Cornell Coop. Ext Master Gardener, presented 'Creating Heaven on Earth,' a program on Shaker gardening principles which are still valued and how they are applied today.

In April, Larry Federman spoke on 'Climate Change and Birds of the Hudson River Valley.' A former education coordinator of three upstate Audubon sanctuaries, Larry discussed the impact of climate change on birds what can be done to reverse it.

On May 17, there will be a hands-on workshop 'Basics of Tabletop Flower Arranging' by Dennis Anderson, club member. On June 21, a bus trip to the NY Botanical Gardens and guided tour followed by lunch on site. A stunning display of more than 15 paintings and a lush flower show explores pioneering American modernist Georgia O'Keeffe's immersion in Hawaii in 1939. For information regarding cost, contact Mimi Greenfield at 518-945-1653.

In July the club will install new officers followed by a members' luncheon. On August 17, the club will visit Wethersfield Gardens for a guided tour of the garden, main house, and Carriage House Museum preceded by lunch.

September 13, Tea Party Annual Fall Luncheon featuring beautiful tablescapes, tea sandwiches, tea, and desserts.

For information regarding club meetings and activities contact Kathryn Montague, President, at 718-637-3101 or montagk@mail.rockefeller.edu

Once again the club's education program sponsored the FGCNYS Poetry Contest for E J Arthur elementary school students. 95 poems were submitted, a record amount. They have been submitted for publication in the FGCNYS annual poetry publication. National Garden Clubs awarded \$500 to FGCNYS to be given to benefit an educator. Athens Community Garden Club was chosen to receive this award in recognition of its outstanding youth education program. Teacher Mrs. Pacek who has enthusiastically supported the program for many years was chosen to attend the National Garden Club Symposium in Ithaca, NY.

Clubs' Calendar 2018

May 18–21

Schoharie Valley Garden Club Flower Show
'Welcoming Spring in Petals, Threads, and Leaves'
Schoharie Library, 103 Knowler Ave., Schoharie, NY

May 19

Germantown Garden Club Plant Sale
8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Palatine Park, Palatine Park Rd., Germantown, NY

May 21–24

NGC Convention
'Love Blooms in Philadelphia'
Loews Philadelphia Hotel
1200 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

June 2

Clematis Garden Club Plant Sale
9 a.m.–noon
Tops County Square, Greenville, NY

June 3–9

National Garden Club Week

June 8–9

The Garden Club of Kinderhook Flower Show
'Playground Floral Fantasies'
Martin H. Glynn Town Hall, Valatie, NY

July 21

Germantown Garden Club 90th Anniversary Celebration
2–4 p.m.
Germantown Library, Palatine Park Rd., Germantown, NY

September 11–13

FGCNYS Fall Conference
Radisson Hotel, Corning, NY

October 18

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

October 24–26

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc.
Fall Conference
Dublin, OH.

Inspiring Gardens Across America



Plant America Grant Program

National Garden Clubs is proud to introduce our newest promotion to grow the Plant America Grant Program. This promotion, entitled Inspiring Gardens Across America, includes three different collections of plants selected by P. Allen Smith. Each item was chosen for the special features in its hybridization for performance or beauty, or for its limited availability in the general marketplace.

Please note that select plant items will be shipped when it is appropriate for your growing zone. Plant orders should be placed separately from regular Member Service item orders. You can order it online here:
www.shopgardenclub.org/shop/category.aspx?catid=38

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.



Crazy Snake-Worm

Amyntas agrestis

Earthworm Fun-fact of the Day: *Contrary to popular belief, earthworms do not surface to avoid drowning during heavy rainstorms. Worms breath through their skin and need moisture to do so - a worm can even survive being completely submerged in water for several days. Worm scientists (yes, there is such a thing - oligochaetologists in fact) think worms surface because they can move farther faster across the wet surface to scout new locations. Dead worms you see on the sidewalk or pavement are likely ones that didn't make it back to safety before drying out too much or were injured during their top-side foray.*

What is it?

You would be forgiven for thinking that something called the Alabama Jumper, Jersey Wiggler, or Crazy Snake-Worm was either some kind of wild new cocktail or amusement park ride, but it is unfortunately something much more sinister than that. A new forest threat has oozed into our region, and it's literally right under our feet. Worse yet - it is a creature that most of us were raised to believe as being a beneficial presence in our yards and gardens. Indeed that is true of some worm species, but not the crazy snake-worm - an aggressive invasive earthworm with the potential to completely alter the character, functionality, and make-up of northern forests. Introduced from East Asia around 80 years ago, it has since become well established in most southeastern states, and has recently wormed its way into Wisconsin, Illinois, Oregon, and many northeastern states.

Just looking at one you might be hard pressed to tell the difference between it and any other species of earthworm. But try to grab hold of it and you'll quickly understand the energetic nicknames this worm has earned. They thrash about so wildly they can come clear off the ground. Their locomotion is where "snake" comes in, as they slither from side-to-side to move rather than using the more typical inch worm-like method. You need to [YouTube](#) them immediately.

How does NETN monitor it?

NETN's long-term forest health monitoring program helps to track earthworm invasions and impacts. Each site visit, all forest plots are visually inspected for signs of worm presence or activity (burrows and casts). At this point, worms are not identified to species since monitoring takes place too early in the season to easily distinguish what kind of worms they are, but it is likely that most of what is being seen in plots so far are in the *Lumbricidae* family (of night crawler fame). NETN parks vary in degree of earthworm invasion, and there is a decidedly north-to-south gradient with the southernmost parks being most invaded. Morristown NHP in NJ, Saratoga NHP in NY, and Weir Farm NHS in CT are particularly laden with earthworms with 90 to 100% of monitoring plots showing signs of earthworms.

Why is it a problem?

In your garden, as worms decompose organic matter and digest soil they release nutrients making them more available to plants. In addition, their tunneling activity creates pathways for

air, water, and plant roots. But it's when earthworms escape to the forest that things really start to go sour.

There haven't been native earthworms in the northeast since the last ice sheet pulverized them over 15,000 years ago, and as a result northern forest ecosystems have evolved without them. Their natural decomposers aren't worms, but fungi and other microflora and fauna that release nutrients slowly over time. All of the 30 or so earthworm species in the region today have been introduced. They are spread from nursery stock, by gardeners sharing plants, improperly discarded fishing bait, and in some commercial mulch and compost. The fisherman's-favorite "night crawler" earthworm is also a big concern for forests as it too is a big eater, but it is the crazy snake-worm that holds the potential of having the most negative impacts.

European earthworms like the night crawler are hermaphroditic, that is, they possess both male and female organs, though they still need to mate to produce offspring. Snake worms, however, can use "parthenogenetic" reproduction, meaning they create egg cocoons without needing to mate. Mature snake worms create 1-2 eggs with each cocoon, which may not sound like much until you realize a worm can create about 60 of these cocoons in a season and the hatched worms can create cocoons of their own in just a couple months. When hundreds or even thousands of worms hatch at once, you may see a truly Hitchcockian spectacle - what looks like thousands of small filament hairs wriggling across the soil surface.

Two earthworm invaders of northern forests. On the left is the well-known 'night crawler' worm, and the relative newcomer - 'crazy snake worm' is on the right.



UW Arboretum



Telltale signs of an earthworm invasion. Worm castings (left) give soil a 'ground beef' look. Forests with lots of earthworms (like this Weir Farm NHS plot on right) have few saplings or wildflowers, show exposed roots, and are dominated by grasses and Jack-in-the-Pulpits.

The eggs aren't even fazed by Northeastern winters - withstanding temperatures as low as -40°F (adult worms usually succumb to the elements by the end of December). European earthworms are mostly active in spring and fall, becoming sluggish during the hottest and driest months of summer. Snake-worms, however, are literally just getting warmed up, and create cocoons from July straight in to November. They mature about twice as fast as their European cousins too, completing two generations per season. All this means that just a *single worm* can spawn a new infestation in a previously un-invaded space.

Snake-worms live in the top 2 to 4 inches of topsoil and leaf litter. As they devour this "duff" layer it destroys the seed bed critical for tree seedlings and wildflowers. Their population density gets higher than other earthworms as well, and their relatively large size means they can consume more organic matter in less time. They break down organic matter so quickly in fact that the nutrient overload can actually injure plants and/or run off into streams and lakes.

The worms' castings turn soil into thick layers of loosely connected bits. Seeds cannot get a purchase or keep moist enough to germinate in this "ground beef" soil. Established plants may also die - not only from worms feeding on their roots but from the roots' exposure to air as a consequence of soil disturbance from the loose layer of castings.

It gets worse - all that tunneling and munching they do also damages an essential relationship for forests. *Mycorrhizae* are hair-thin threads of fungi that weave together the roots of plants. The fungi helps their host plants siphon nutrients from the soil and they get a sugary food in exchange. Most plants can't survive without their particular mycorrhizal partner, and when worm activity breaks apart this thin web of sustenance, it can damage or kill the dependent plants.

Following earthworm invasion is a predictable and precipitous decline of understory seedlings and wildflowers, which in turn

promotes erosion, deprives ground-nesting birds and salamanders of cover, and forces deer to browse more aggressively on mature saplings. At least a couple NETN parks are likely showing signs of this. The worms even change the very chemistry of the soil. Their gizzards emit calcium carbonate, acting like lime on acid soil and making it more alkaline and less suitable for acid-loving species like azaleas and oaks. When soil changes, effects ripple outward to all parts of an ecosystem. Invaders, like Japanese barberry, stiltgrass, and garlic mustard can get a leg up from the flush of nitrogen, crowding out native plants.

Do You Have Snake-Worms in Your Yard or Forest?

Sometimes all it takes to spot an earthworm invasion is to look at the forest-floor. At the risk of stating the obvious - if you see worms, there's a problem. Lacking worms themselves, if you see mostly grasses, ferns, jack-in-the-pulpits (which are naturally resistant to earthworm damage) and invasive plants, it is likely they are present. A noticeable lack of leaf litter by mid-to-late summer is also a telltale sign of earthworm invasion.

Another test for worms involves a little kitchen chemistry. Add a spoonful of liquid mustard to a gallon of water and pour it on the ground. This doesn't harm plants, and worms - of all species - will come to the surface within a few minutes. Look for snake worms by their behavioral cues.

Several different methods are being studied aimed at controlling the spread of these worms - from an organic fertilizer, to biochar, to prescribed burns. For now, if you find them in your yard, the Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources recommends killing them by bagging as many as you can and putting them out in the sun for at least 10 minutes. Then you can just throw the bag away.

You can do your part to prevent them spreading too. Always check potted plants and trees for worms before planting them in your yard. Examine clothing, gardening, and landscaping materials before doing yard work in a new location to prevent transporting cocoons. If you buy compost, only buy from sources that heat it at appropriate temperatures and duration to kill pathogens.

For parks, NETN recommends cleaning tires on heavy equipment before moving into un-invaded areas to avoid spreading worms.

For more information

Find protocols, reports, and resource briefs on the Forest Health Monitoring webpage (<http://go.nps.gov/forest>).