

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



MAY 2019

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From the Director



Greetings to everyone!

The Third District Board for 2019–2021 was installed at our Spring Conference on April 25, 2019. It was a pleasure to welcome Pat Wania, Past State President, to our meeting and an honor to have her do the installation.

On behalf of myself and all the new Board members, thank you for your support and your confidence in us. We welcomed two new members to the Board this year, Kris Vogt into the First Assistant Director position and Joan Giordano into the Assistant Treasurer position. Merril-Lee Lenegar has moved into the

Second Assistant Director position while Camille McComb is now the Recording Secretary. Marie Celeste, after becoming Treasurer late last year, is remaining on in that position. We are all looking forward to working with you during our time in office and know that we can count on you to continue the great job that you are doing in your clubs.

I specifically want to thank Gary Barrack, our most recent Director, for all his support and encouragement. He has worked tirelessly for the Third District over the last 2 years, representing the Third District at State meetings, presiding over Board meetings, running our annual meetings, attending individual club events, and more. His dedication and commitment are inspirational. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with Gary as he serves not only as chair of the Advisory Council but also as Corresponding Secretary.

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, New Paltz, Saugerties Society of Little Gardens, Shawangunk, Ulster



Our new roster of Board Members. L. to r.: Merril-Lee Lenegar, Kris Vogt, Beth Walker, Marie Celeste, Joan Giordano, and Gary Barrack. Not shown, Camille McComb.

(from pg. 1)

Many thanks also need to go to our two retiring Board members, Jean Horn and Cathy Fruhauf, for their excellent work as, respectively, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. We're fortunate that Jean is stepping into the Wildflowers Committee Chairman position and that Cathy is remaining as the Schenectady County Chairman.

After 14 years as District Awards Chairman, Patricia Blundell is stepping down from that position. Any member whose club has received a district, state, or national award knows firsthand how knowledgeable, organized, and hard-working Patricia has been on behalf of the clubs in the Third District. So many thanks go to Patricia for everything she has done in a myriad of roles over the past 34 years on the Board of Directors. Patricia is going to be taking on the role of Garden Therapy Chairman, a position that has been empty for some time now, and I'm looking forward to seeing a revitalization of that committee. If you are interested in becoming the Awards Coordinator, please let me know!

As I've looked around during Board meetings and during our Annual Conferences, I've been struck by the amount of knowledge, experience, and wisdom that is present in both the Board and in our general membership. We have clubs with strong youth programs, clubs with garden therapy programs, clubs that are adding new members regularly. We have clubs who have their own specialists in wildlife, wildflowers, native or invasive plants, and insects. However, we also have clubs that would like to begin youth programs or garden therapy programs, clubs that need to increase membership or make the difficult and painful decision that they are no longer capable of continuing as a club. We also have clubs who have difficulty locating informative speakers. So the question becomes one of how to share the information between clubs and committees more effectively. One approach is to bring back the type of workshops that have been held in the past. These could have a specific topic, i.e., membership and recruitment, garden therapy, speaker recruitment, etc. Alternatively, there could be several topics contained within the same workshop and attendees could choose which session to attend. The workshops would be held twice within the District—one to the north and one to the south. Clubs with strong track records in the topic(s) would be invited to present and lead the discussions. Merrill-Lee and I have had some very preliminary discussions about these workshops and we welcome your input. In addition, if you have an alternate form of sharing information, please let me know. I'd like to hear your ideas.

In addition to the workshops, the focus over the next two years will continue much as they have been for several years: increasing membership; supporting State and National objectives such as Plant America, Dig Deep, and Wells for Sudan; promoting ecologically

YEARBOOK CONTEST

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

Please send one copy of your Yearbook to me by
June 1, 2019 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



sound gardening practices; and encouraging all clubs to educate the public about the harmful effects of plastics on the environment.

Through our plant sales, flower shows, garden therapy projects, even our historic house decorations, we are in a unique position to reach the public. If we use those opportunities to provide meaningful and thoughtful information about the environment, about the State and National objectives, about practices that harm the environment, we can positively affect how people live and act, whether in the garden or in the grocery store. These small steps, when added together, can carry us far.

Regards,

Beth
Director, Third District



ELIZABETH WALKER

Director, District III

Who I Am: Born and raised in Indianapolis, IN, I came east for college and never moved back. After graduation, I began a 36-year career in telecommunications and information technology. Some of my busiest and most challenging times were with Dun & Bradstreet as I stepped into international responsibilities and traveled frequently to Europe. After retirement, I spent 4 years as the Senior Warden at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Woodstock, NY. It was around that same time that I realized that I needed to find a way to fill my time. I began working at Macy's in Poughkeepsie as a seasonal hire at Christmas and enjoyed it so much that I returned the following years. Last year Macy's invited me to join them on a full-time basis as a member of their customer service team and I've been commuting to Poughkeepsie since then.

As to my involvement in gardens, floral arranging, and horticulture, it probably all started as a child when I helped in the family vegetable garden. As to arranging flowers? I used to bicycle over to my uncle's florist shop towards the end of each week and he would give me some of the flowers that would otherwise be tossed out. I would pedal home and arrange them in whatever attractive container caught my eye. I picked up flower arranging again when I began doing the altar flowers at my church and that prompted me to take courses at the New York Botanical Garden. I received my certificate in Professional Floral Design in 1996. When we moved to the Princeton, NJ, area, I met a number of floral arrangers who regularly entered the Philadelphia Flower Show and who encouraged me to exhibit as well. My first entry only took an Honorable Mention but a photo of it was included in a book celebrating PHS' anniversary. I was hooked! I've now exhibited there since 2001 and look forward to it eagerly every year. Moving beyond exhibiting, I've just finished Flower Show School and am preparing for my schedule writing assignment and test in order to become a judge.

Now, I have to admit that most of my gardening revolves around vegetables. Yes, I love peonies. Yes, I've planted over a hundred hosta to cover a shady area where nothing else would grow. Yes, I've had as many as 25 varieties of *Narcissus* planted. And, yes, I plant annuals in the ground and in pots each year simply because I love the colors and the sources of flowers for arrangements. But my love is for my vegetables. My husband and I plant primarily heirloom tomatoes and other heirloom vegetables each year in a straw bale garden with about 20–25 bales each year. The tomatoes make wonderful sauces and we enjoy them throughout the winter.

It's time-consuming to get the bales started each year but then it becomes almost no maintenance, as there is little weeding to be done! My kind of gardening!

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!

What inspired you to be a Board Member? I became a Board member back in 2017 and, prior to that, I hadn't thought about becoming a Board Member. Although a bit surprised at the nomination, I considered it to be an honor to be part of the team that supports the garden clubs within the district and I've met many wonderful gardeners. After seeing the workings of the Board these past two years, I feel confident that I can continue the spirit of leadership and direction shown by our previous directors and am looking forward to working with all the clubs in the Third District as well as getting involved at the state level.

What is your favorite flower or vegetable and why do like it? Now, this is a tough one. My favorite flowers fall into two 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 Trionfo Violetto 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!



KRIS VOGT

*First Assistant Director,
District III*

What is your gardening background?

My gardening experience began as a youth on our family farm in western New York. We had a very large vegetable garden and did a lot of freezing and canning so we would have homegrown vegetables throughout the winter season. We also had about 2

dozen peony bushes that lined our driveway and the edge of lawns. Perhaps that is why peonies are one of my favorite flowers. I began to garden again about 20 years ago when I purchased my first house. I retired in 2015 and joined the Guilderland Garden Club to help fill my days and meet new people. Then last fall I fulfilled a long time goal of becoming a Master Gardener by taking the course at the Albany County Cooperative Extension. So I guess gardening has always been in my blood.

What inspired you to be a Board Member? Actually, I hadn't thought about becoming a Board member until I was asked. Then I thought, why not. I have been attending the District meetings since I first joined in 2015 and I have enjoyed the programs and new friends I have made throughout the District. So it seemed like a natural fit to contribute as a Board member.

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

So as I already indicated, Peonies are my favorite flower. They last for what seems to be forever (some of the ones on my family farm are over 75 years old) and they are beautiful and fragrant. As far as vegetables go, there aren't many that I don't like. My favorite to grow is Romano green beans. They remind me of the garden at my family's farm. They are not that common but are easy to grow and taste great.



MERRIL-LEE LENEGAR

*2nd 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. They both were passionate about the gardens that included beautiful roses, hydrangeas, peonies, and many annuals, as well as apple trees and vegetables. I learned

at an early age how to make things grow and what beautiful arrangements could be made with the flowers. Grandma always had a bouquet of roses in her parlor during the growing season. When I was in elementary school, the City of Albany held a student tulip garden contest so grandma let me plant bulbs in a section of one of her gardens. A judge would come to see the tulips that were planted by the student. My tulip garden won tulip bulbs from Holland. Now I was hooked on gardening. I have also learned a lot about gardening through participation in the Guilderland Garden Club. My own gardens keep getting larger as I learn more about plants. Sometimes I think mowing a lawn might be easier, but it is not as pretty. 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? This is my second term as an officer for District III. I had a wonderful experience during my first term. I enjoyed immensely working with the other Board members and found them to be supportive and appreciated their willingness to give advice and guidance as needed. 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 like it?

After working in the garden and seeing all the beauty that is there, it is hard for me to say I have one favorite. Throughout the growing season, as flowers appear I now have many favorites. As I look out my windows that overlook our largest garden area, I see the beautiful tulips. I know it won't be long and my bleeding hearts will be in full bloom. I have many varieties of flowers, and each seems to be a favorite when it blooms. I love seeing these flowers, cutting them for bouquets and letting them dry to use in wreaths and dry flower arrangements.



GARY BARRACK

*Correspondence Secretary,
District III*

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. 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 inspired you to be 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 continued our proud heritage of garden club service to our communities and our country. After serving as District Director for the past two years, the position of Corresponding Secretary provided me an opportunity to remain on the Board while acting as a resource for our newly-elected officers.

What is your favorite flower or vegetable and why do 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?



CAMILLE MCCOMB

*Recording Secretary,
District III*

What is your gardening background?

Growing up in a two family home with my grandparents sparked the interest initially. Walking into a florist shop for the first time and inhaling a beautiful fragrance got me hooked!

This is the truth—O’Neil’s Florist in

Hudson, although no longer there, but the memory lives on. Plus my love of all flowers, from climbing honeysuckle to mums, zinnias, geraniums, and houseplants fuels my passion.

What inspired you to be a Board Member? I was asked to consider a club board position and said yes immediately. The inclusiveness of working as a TEAM with fellow gardeners and club members was appealing to me. I enjoy being part of the process and seeing the outcomes of organization goals!

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

Rosa Rugosa is my favorite flower. I remember smelling this as we walked to the beach one day and couldn’t believe the fragrance. Then seeing this beauty in pink and white was fabulous.



MARIE CELESTE

Treasurer, District III

What is your gardening background?

My love of gardening began by living in the countryside of Slingerlands, where we grew all our vegetables with many apple, peach, and cherry trees along with grape vines. Seeing everything growing was an exciting thing to see, as well as what was ready to pick to eat.

What inspired you to be a Board Member? Meeting people and listening to their viewpoints on gardening is what inspired me.

What is your favorite flower or vegetable and why do like it? My favorite flower to grow would be hollyhocks which I purchased from Monticello and I will be visiting there in May.



JOAN GIORDANO

*Assistant Treasurer,
District III*

What is your gardening background?

I just love gardening!

What inspired you to be a Board

Member? I have been a member of the Greenbush Garden Club for over 30 years and have held several positions at both my club and in the Third District.

Also, I have done several duties at St. Michael’s Church in North Greenbush and spent the last 13 years volunteering at Genet Elementary School in East Greenbush.

Anything else? I am happy to have twin grandsons going into their third year of college as well as a granddaughter starting college in the fall.

2019 FGCMNYS GARDEN GETAWAY THREE DAY COACH BUS TRIP FROM NEW YORK TO THE NEWPORT FLOWER SHOW



AUDUBON
Artistic
ADVENTURES



An elegant three day getaway featuring the fabled Newport Flower Show at Rosecliff Mansion and visits to Blithewold Manor Garden & other beautiful and unique gardens.

A New England Lobster Dinner, Garden Picnics,

Two nights shared Hotel room with Breakfast, and Surprises included!

This luxury coach tour will begin in Buffalo with pickups in Rochester, Syracuse and Albany. FGC members from other areas of NYS are welcome to join up with the tour in Newport, RI.

Wednesday to Friday, June 19-21, 2019

Special Rate \$575, after April 1st \$625

Proceeds Benefit FGCMNYS

Call FGCMNYS Garden Trip & Tour Chairperson
Terry Sajewski with any questions (516)456-4991.

Signup at garden-expeditions.com

or email gardenexpeditions@gmail.com

SPRING FORWARD!

Highlights from the District III Spring Meeting



Third District Director Gary Barrack at the podium with incoming and outgoing Board Members seated right, at the Polish Community Center in Albany.



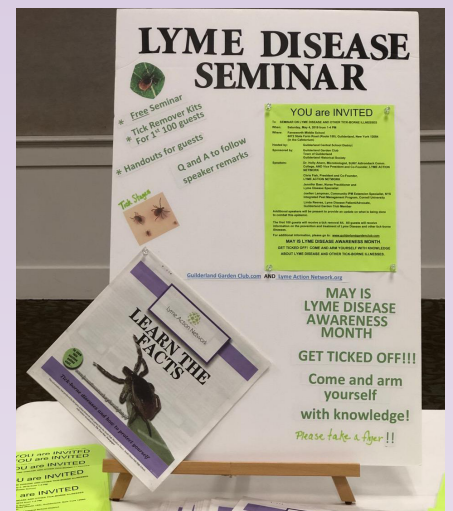
Members of the Greenbush Garden Club did a great job with handling the raffle tickets.



The Raffle Table offered many great prizes for those with the lucky tickets.



The Registrar Table was manned by Greenport Garden Club members Angela Rapp, Club President, and Cindy Teator, Registrar.



One of the educational displays featured information about Lyme Disease.

Photos by Gloria Cestero-Hurd and Fran Buft, Germantown Garden Club.



Patricia Blundell receives a Citation for her years of service from outgoing Director, Gary Barrack.



HOUSEPLANTS ARE HOT!

Houseplants have again hit the shelves and windowsills with enthusiasm this year. For 2019, the plants that people are after are lush foliage plants of different shapes and sizes as well as ones that offer a culinary twist such as coffee plants or figs.

Houseplant hobbyists have been growing at a steady rate with many generations becoming interested and enamored with them. Enter any cafe or open any design magazine and you'll find lush plants adorning tables and spaces.

Picking indoor plants is a highly personal, subjective decision. As with anything, you want only the best indoor plants, but factors such as maintenance levels, safety for pets, and light requirements determine whether a plant—regardless of how great or Insta-famous it is—is right for you. Some will want to stick to classic plants or plants that can help clean and filter indoor air; others will want to keep up with the Next Big Thing(s) of the plant world.

Some Trendy Houseplants:

- *Begonia maculata* 'Wightii'
- Neon Pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*)
- *Alocasia* 'Frydek'
- Silver Pothos 'Silvery Anne' (*Scindapsis pictus*)
- *Philodendron* 'Jungle Boogie'
- Sansevierias
- Ponytail Palm (*Beaucarnea recurvata*)
- String of Pearls (*Senecio rowleyanus*)

WILDFLOWERS

Colt's Foot

by Lynne Arnold, District III Wildflower Chair

Tussilago tartara

Coltsfoot, *Tussilago farfara*, is a genus and species in the Asteraceae family. I imagine this plant growing where horses ride, welcoming spring as a new colt shiny and gold in the warm sun.

The flowering season is April to May with flowers that are yellow, similar to Dandelion. The flowers are 1" wide with many narrow, petal-like rays, blooming before the leaves emerge. The flower heads are few, each on an individual scaly 3–18" tall stem.

The leaves are basal growing as a collar on the ground. They are simple, nearly round heart-shaped, with very shallow angularly-sided lobes, margin toothed, green, and pubescent underneath. Pubescent undersides of leaves have soft hairs that cover and protect the stomata which open and close to take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. The shape is said to be like a colt's foot.

From ancient times, people have used coltsfoot as a cough and asthma remedy. The efficacy of extracts of coltsfoot leaves and flowers, long included in cough syrups, asthma teas, and herbal smoking mixtures for asthmatics, is probably due to the mucilage in the plant, which soothes inflamed mucous membranes.

Introduced from Europe, coltsfoot now grows wild from Newfoundland, south to New Jersey and west to Minnesota. Coltsfoot habitat is moist soil, meadows, and roadsides. Open meadows with brooks and vernal ponds sound like the perfect place for the new colt to take her first steps!



GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

The Germantown Garden Club held its first meeting for 2019 at the Germantown Library. The theme for 2019 is “The Wonderful World of Gardening.” In keeping with this theme some of the exciting highlights for the year will include speakers who will talk on trendy houseplants, gardening in small spaces, a film and talk on the history of the violet industry in the Hudson Valley, a hands-on workshop creating a dish garden, and a field trip to ‘The Climbery’, a local garden that features one of the largest clematis collections in the world. And best of all—an award-winning flower show will take place in the fall. This will be the club’s 91st flower show.

The March meeting of the Germantown Garden Club featured the film “Sweet Violets” and a talk by Tobe Carey at the Hover Room in the Germantown Library. Tobe Carey is an independent film producer, director, and photographer. “Sweet Violets” tells the forgotten story of the violet industry in the Hudson Valley region. In the early 20th century Rhinebeck was considered the violet capital of the world, producing a quarter of all the cultivated violets grown in the United States. Nearly 400 violet houses dotted backyards and fields along Violet Avenue in Rhinebeck, plus Red Hook, Hyde Park, and towns throughout Dutchess County. Violets are grown from late fall to bloom time in early Spring. At Easter, more than a million blooms could be shipped by train to eastern and midwestern cities. The growing of violets was very labor intensive. Violets needed new soil every year to grow. Each violet bouquet consisted of individually handpicked blooms. The industry lasted from the late 1800s into the 1920s. The waning popularity of violets lasted beyond World War II with the final ‘Violet King’ shutting his greenhouses in 1979. It is said that you can dig in many yards in Rhinebeck and find broken glass from the greenhouses. The meeting was attended by members and many guests, two from as far away as Ancram. The club welcomed new member Jennifer Steeneck.

For April, the club held a hands-on workshop, “Creating a Dish Garden.” A dish garden is gardening on a smaller scale. This program was led by Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Jean Thomas. The workshop demonstrated the techniques of dish gardening and included suggestions of appropriate plants, proper soil, and proper plant combinations. Also, other materials needed to create a successful dish garden such as gravel for drainage, moss as a soil cover, and suggestions for the optimal size of a container were discussed. The meeting agenda included a discussion of the club’s upcoming annual plant, bake and tag sale in May. On the calendar for May is the annual Bird Walk held at Clermont State Historic Site in Clermont.



From l to r: Preparing for our 2019 Programs: Melanie Nelson, Gloria Cestero-Hurd, Karin Janson, and Irene Clum.



Tobe Carey, at his talk about the movie “Sweet Violets.”



Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Jean Thomas gives a presentation about Dish Gardens.

GREENPORT GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

Garden In The Meadow Blooms

The Greenport Garden Club hosted a spring workshop “Garden in the Meadow” to kick off their gardening season. Workshop presenter Heather Grimes, landscape designer and stewardship consultant, discussed the changing climate and ecosystem and the need to design a landscape that conserves water, limits chemicals, fertilizes and builds healthy soil. Grasses, wildflowers and native plants that attract beneficial insects were discussed. Heather is based in Columbia County New York and offers management consulting for native woodlands and meadows, oversee invasive plant removal and healthy native plant habitat establishment.



Above: “Garden in the Meadows” workshop with Heather Grimes and Angela Rapp.

Right: Greenport Garden Club’s participation in the Hudson Area Library’s “High Five” program.

Teaching Young Gardeners

The Greenport Garden Club participated in the Hudson Area Library and Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood early literacy program “High Five” with a workshop “Using Gardening Activities to Develop Literacy.” The “High Five” program, a five-week series in its second year, is facilitated by Kathy Mabb, a thirty-year educator in Columbia County. Sixteen children and their families attended the Greenport Garden Club’s gardening workshop. Members from the club assisted in a hands on activity that allowed children to learn about planting seedlings and seeds. “It was a fantastic day and the children were excited to get their hands in the dirt and learn about how plants begin to grow,” stated Nancy Westbrook of the Greenport Garden Club who coordinated the program with Hudson Area Library.

Also, the club has the following events planned:

June 1: Greenport Tag Sale at the Greenport Firehouse

June 15: Field Trip to Innisfree Gardens



GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Merrill-Lee Lenegar

On February 22–24, the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany hosted the “Cathedral in Bloom 2019” flower exhibit. Exhibitors were invited to participate. Garden Club member Craig Waltz, who does displays under Fleurelite Floral Design, had two matching exhibits in the North and South Stall in the Quire area. There were thirty exhibits in total throughout the Cathedral. In addition to the displays, there were workshops and presentations, tours of the Cathedral, building a Flower Market, an organ recital, and lunch by reservation. Plans are in the works for another event for next year which may be open to more exhibitors.

The first meeting of our program year was held on March 11, at the Westmere Fire House. We were treated to a wonderful presentation and workshop by a new member, Jean Dearstyne. Her topic was “Think Outside the Vase.” She provided the containers, flowers, and all the supplies we needed for each member to create an arrangement. She also brought arrangements she had made using all different kinds of containers such as boxes, cans, pineapple, which members had the opportunity to take home. Profits from this event benefitted the South End Café, an after-school program for children in Albany.

On April 8, the Club met at the Mynderse-Frederick House for a presentation on Hummingbirds. Patricia Thorne, Master Gardener and avid bird watcher from the Rensselaer County Cornell Cooperative Extension, spoke on what flowers and shrubs attract these tiny birds, use of feeders, life habits (mating, travel, etc.), and amazing facts about the “hummers.” The presentation was followed by refreshments made by Carol Samsonoff and Judy Plummer. All were delicious and looked like spring had come.

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month. On May 4, the Guilderland School District hosted a free seminar on “Lyme Disease and Other Tick-Borne Illnesses” in the cafetorium at the Farnsworth Middle School. The club was a sponsor along with the Town of Guilderland and the Guilderland Historical Society. The purpose was to educate the public on the complexity of diagnosing the disease and to provide information on ways to prevent being bitten by ticks. Speakers included Dr. Holly Ahern, Microbiologist, SUNY Adirondack Community College and Vice President/Co-Founder of the Lyme Action Network; Jennifer Goldstock, Nurse Practitioner and Lyme Disease Specialist; Joellen Lampman, Community IPM Extension Specialist, NYS Integrated Pest Management Program at Cornell University; and Linda Reeves, Lyme Disease Patient/Advocate and a member of the Guilderland Garden Club. The first 100 guests received a tick removal kit. Local legislators have been invited to attend.



Above: Members who won arrangements made by Jean Dearstyne.

Below: The refreshments that were made by Carol Samsonoff and Judy Plummer at our April meeting elicited many comments on how pretty the refreshments were.

On May 13, we had a presentation from Judith Fetterley, Master Gardener and Certified Garden Designer, Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension, on “Interesting and Under-used Trees.” Her talk covered a range of tree options and the basics of choosing and planting a tree.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Cynthia Bogardus

At the annual spring luncheon, the Garden Club of Kinderhook installed their board of directors for 2019/2020 and welcomed new members to the club. In attendance to officiate was our Third District Director, Gary Barrack. He graciously cited the title and responsibility of the officers, presenting each with a floral tribute decorated with colored ribbons corresponding to each office.

Several new members completed the club requirement of participating in a combination of three meetings, activities, or events. They received club pins from President Denise Hess and Plant America pins from Director Barrack.

A highlight of the event was special recognition of longtime member Reneta “Renee” Benenati, who joined the Club in 1982. Renee served several terms as President of the Club, as well as Third District Director. In a tribute written by Susan O’Brien Nicholson and read by Patricia Leary, Renee was heralded for her numerous contributions to the Garden Club of Kinderhook. She established many of the organization’s ongoing committees and community projects; chaired and participated in several of the biennial flower shows and fundraising events; created artwork for yearbooks, posters, and flyers; and mentored new members by encouraging them to actively participate in activities and projects. Director Barrack heartily joined Club members in thanking and congratulating Renee for her many contributions.



The 2019–2020 Board of Directors for the Garden Club of Kinderhook are from left: Cindy VanAlstyme, Deborah Moore, Sue Sweet, Denise Hess, Stephanie Lally, Carol Finkelstein, and Roberta Smith.



Director Gary Barrack, President Denise Hess with new members Susan Gibson, Susan Opalka, and Laurie Gambee. Unable to attend were Kathryn Cadman and Tana Thompson.

SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Helene Glatt

As part of the National Garden Club’s 2017-2019 Theme “Plant America for a Cleaner, Greener, and Healthier World,” the Shawangunk Garden Club will “Wing It” this year. (Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a singing bird will come).

The Shawangunk Garden Club members plan to “fly by the seat of our pants” and learn, adapt, and understand the role of birds, how they contribute to the horticultural world through their role in our environment:— spreading seeds, nesting habitats, pollination, and the pleasure we receive from them at our feeders. We have two “Open to the Public Meetings” with knowledgeable speakers on horticulture and ornithology. On April 1 Horticulturalist Polly M. Law from Catskill

Native Nursery in Kerhonkson, NY presented a talk on “Gardening for the Birds.” She spoke about what plants we can add to our home gardens to attract birds. She also discussed how birds are important to pollination. On Tuesday, September 10 Rick Bunting, “The Roadside Naturalist,” will have a slide presentation entitled “Free as a Bird.” Rick is a photographer from Bainbridge, NY and is a member of the Sullivan County Audubon Society who educates over 300 fellow birders with his biweekly blog. This “Open Club Meeting” will be held at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the Ellenville Public Library & Museum, 40 Center Street, Ellenville, NY. If you love birds, we invite you to join us since “birds of a feather flock together!”



This year the Shawangunk Garden Club will be partaking in character much like birds, spreading the seeds of enthusiasm for gardening, learning together with fellow gardeners, as we “WING IT” and “PLANT AMERICA”.

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack



This year, the Tioronda Garden Club is celebrating its 90th Anniversary. The club was organized on May 15, 1929, and joined the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS in 1931. The celebration starts on May 8 with an Anniversary Tea/Luncheon at the Historic Howland Cultural Center, which has been the club's home since 1929.

The Tioronda Garden Club held its annual joint meeting with the Verplanck Garden Club in Fishkill, NY on April 9. It is a long tradition that these two neighboring clubs take turns each year in holding a joint meeting. The program "Supporting Dutchess County Farms" was presented by Jennifer Fimbel, Dutchess County Agricultural Navigator.

On May 18, Armed Forces Day, the club dedicated a Blue Star Highway Memorial Marker in honor of all men and women who have served our country. The marker is a gift to the City of Beacon by the members of the Tioronda Garden Club to honor the city's veterans through the decades. The monument stands tall in a prominent location on NY State Route 9D in front of the Beacon Municipal Building.



Above: Rev. Richard Smith giving the invocation at the Blue Star Memorial Ceremony. To his left is Beacon Mayor Randy Casale and former District Director, Gary Barrack. Above Center: Members of the VFW, American Legion, and Marine Corp Detachment form the Color Guard at the event. Above Right: FGCNYS President Monica Hansen with Gary Barrack at the newly dedicated Blue Star Memorial Marker.

Right: President Gary Barrack takes time to thank the Hostesses for the event.



CLEMATIS GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTY

by Jean Horn

Our 2019 annual Spring Social this year was held on Friday, April 12 at St John's Catholic Church Community Hall in Greenville.

Our speaker this year was TV and radio personality Peter Bowden who spoke about insects in our area. 'Good Bugs and Bad Bugs' was his presentation. He made us aware of how we can deal with the bad ones and also help the good ones. Peter was a great speaker, interesting, informative, and funny!

We also offered raffles, a silent auction, and had delicious refreshments to make for a fun afternoon.

From spring through summer, our club chooses a 'Garden of the Month' from May through September, sometimes October, depending on the weather. The Garden of the Month Committee sends pictures to several local newspapers, Facebook, and our 50-plus members. We have a very attractive yard sign that we place roadside depicting the winning Garden of the Month. This advertising of pretty local gardens and our Club helps to build interest in our Clematis Garden Club and attract new members.

Our Garden of the Month for May went to Carolyn Sadowski Doherty of East Durham. She has beautiful gardens around her home. Hundreds of daffodil bulbs in 12 varieties have been planted over the years as well as lovely drifts that have been naturalized. Daffodils are a sure sign that spring is finally here.



Left: Our Garden of the Month for May featured the beautiful daffodil gardens of Carolyn Sadowski Doherty of East Durham. Above top: our Spring Social was held at St. John's Catholic Community Hall. We had a great turnout. Above bottom: Speaker Peter Bowden spoke about insects in our area.

HUGH PLAT GARDEN CLUB

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

by MaryAnn DeFonce

This past November, Hugh Plat Garden Club accomplished quite a feat for our small group. Each year we decorate the Schenectady County Historical Society Building for its Festival of Trees. It is a task we truly love doing for the Society. But this year we decorated the Society building inside and out, the outside of their newly acquired property a few blocks away, and the farmhouse, slave quarters, and barn exterior at the Society's Mabee Farm property on the banks of the Mohawk River. The farmhouse was challenging since we needed to keep the decorations period to the early 1700s. Our theme "Frosty Forest" helped us obtain a simple, natural look.

Our work this past year has led us to a re-invention of our yearly planning schedule. We have evolved into a club small in numbers, yet mighty in enthusiasm, work ethics, and loyalty to our club mission, which is the fall and winter beautification of the Society's properties at three locations. We have come to the realization that this project, done well, needs more attention than we can give if we start, as usual, in September. So this year we have already started! We have been in workshop mode since February with brainstorming sessions, sample runs of decorations, and are now into the production of soft goods and non-evergreen items that are able to be stored for later use. Our general theme will be "Lanterns and Old Lace."

Looking ahead, our May 17 meeting will be another workshop. We are all looking forward to June 21 when we will gather for a picnic in Schenectady's Central Park Rose Garden. We will be inviting past club members to join in the fun. The Central Park Rose Garden is a wonderful treasure in our area. Plan a visit soon. You won't be disappointed!



GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Carole Garvar, Chair

ATHENS COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB

Athens Community Garden Club, founded in 1941, meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Zion Lutheran Church, located at 102 N. Washington Street (Rt. 385) in Athens. Meetings are always to the public and visitors are always welcome. President Steven Mann can be reached at stevenaamann@gmail.com for information. Meetings are as follows.

On June 27, the club will travel to The Mount, the home of Edith Wharton for a guided tour followed by lunch on site catered by the Red Lion Inn.

On July 18, Peter Bowden, well-known author, blogger, and spokesperson for Hewitt's Garden Center, will discuss "Pet and Wildlife Garden Solutions."

On August 15, the club will take a guided tour with David Gade, operations manager, through the Central Park Rose Gardens in Schenectady.

On September 19, the club's Annual Fall Luncheon with a presentation on garden therapy by ACGC member Desiree Pacek will be held at the church.

On October 24, "Successfully Growing Lavender" will be presented by Dianne and David Allen, owners of Lavenlair Farms.

November 21, the club's Annual Holiday Luncheon and Auction will be held at Pegasus Restaurant, 10885 Rt. 9W in Coxsackie. This event has grown each year and reservations are required. Contact Laura Erwig at 518-444-8279 for info.

On December 19, Martha Teumim, Master Gardener, will present a program on "Creating a Night Garden."

CLEMATIS GARDEN CLUB

Clematis Garden Club founded in 1940, meets on the second Friday of each month at St. Johns Community Hall located at 4087 Rt. 81, in Greenville on the second Friday of each month. All meetings are open to the public and guests are always welcome. President Jean Horn can be reached at 518 966-4260 or jhorn38@aol.com for information.

In April, the club held the Annual Spring Garden Social featuring noted speaker Peter Bowden, an auction and tables of delicious refreshments. Always well attended, this year the crowd exceeded all expectations thanks to publicity in local newspapers. This resulted in four new members joining that day. Spreading the word of your clubs activities pays off! *

Meetings are as follows.

On June 14, the club will tour Barbers Farm in Middleburg, followed by lunch at The Apple Barrel in Schoharie.

On July 12, the club will tour the Mountain Top Arboretum in

Tannersville. Marc Wolf will tour members through this living museum of native plants and trees.

On August 9, a picnic and garden tour will take place at 2961 Rt. 145 in Preston Hollow, the home of member and master gardener Cynthia Willis.

On September 13, members will tour Olana, the historic home and gardens of Frederick Church, famed Hudson River artist located on Rt. 9G in Hudson.

On October 11, Barbara Campbell, Former President FGCNYS, and instructor for Ulster County Master Gardeners in Tick Information will speak on ticks.

November 8, The Holiday Luncheon will be held Gavins Restaurant, 118 Golden Hill Rd., Cornwallville.

December 13, a program on Fire Safety will be presented by Connie Whitbeck, Chief of the Oak Hill Volunteer Fire Dept.

SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Schoharie Valley Garden Club founded in 1947 meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Locations vary. Contact President Agnes Rapoli at 518 872-0250 or arapoli@dishmail.net for information. Program information follows and there is a plant exchange at every meeting.

On June 5, "The Art Of Progressive Blooming," a workshop with Master Gardener David Laraway will be held at the Middleburgh Library.

June 6-10, a Flower Show and Tea will be held at the Schoharie Library, Corner of Bridge St. and Knower Ave.

On July 3, "Tea and Garden Tour" will take place at Miss Lodema's Tea Room, Roseboro Hotel, Sharon Springs.

August 7, a bus trip to Berkshire Botanical Gardens followed by lunch at the Red Lion Inn is planned.

September 4, "Learning Ikebana," with Ellen Rook, from Capital District Sogetsu Study Group, will be held at the Schoharie Church.

September 7, Garage Sale, Plant, & Bake Sale: 9 am to 3 pm, 139 Bridge Street.

October 2, members meet at Our Lady of the Valley Church Hall to create mini floral arrangements to be delivered by Schoharie County Home Delivered Meals Workshop to home meal recipients.

In November, members will meet twice to plan and create decorations for the annual holiday luncheon and Festival of Trees. In December the club will decorate a tree at the NYS Power Authority, Blenheim.

December 4: The Annual Christmas Luncheon and Boutique, "Homespun Christmas," will be held from Noon to 4 pm, Sablewood at Highview Springs Farm, 5038 Rt. 30, Schoharie.

Clubs' Calendar 2019

June 1

Greenport Garden Club Tag Sale
Greenport Firehouse

June 2–8

National Garden Week

June 6–10

Schoharie Valley Garden Club's
Flower Show and Tea
Schoharie Library

September 7

Schoharie Valley Garden Club's
Garage Sale, Plant, and Bake Sale
139 Bridge St.

September 14–14

Germantown Garden Club's Annual Flower Show
"The Wonderful World of Gardening"
The Palatine Parsonage, 52 Maple Ave., Germantown

October 17

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

October 24–27

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc.
Fall Conference
Arlington, VA



Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community

Join NGC clubs across the country and celebrate National Garden Week, June 2-8, 2019. Promote the NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts, gardening, and involvement of Garden Clubs in your community. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

Ideas to consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden" workshop at an area nursery.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. This would be a good opportunity to work with other groups.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.
- Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters.

Share the value and efforts of Garden Clubs with your community! Encourage members of your community to be involved! Interest potential members!

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*.

