

# The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



NOVEMBER 2015

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## Editor's Note

One of my goals as editor was to attend the FGNYS Fall Meeting and our Fall Third District Meeting. I was impressed with how each event required so much participation from so many clubs. I didn't know what 'Ways & Means' was before. I had some idea that it was a sort of 'garage sale' thing. Well, there I was with all the donated items that various clubs contributed and I was a cashier. I was proud that I could contribute my time, even in a very small way, for this big event.

At both events, I saw how much teamwork went into making these venues appeal to me. From lining up speakers, giving great flower arranging demos, donating raffle items, and lining up vendors, I am in awe of how much thought and effort went into planning these events. I encourage clubs to attend. It made me feel proud that we are all a part of this big thing we call Garden Clubs.

A side note, I commend those clubs that take on the task of the registration process. I was impressed with how easy it was for me to get a name tag with my lunch choice printed on it. I'd forgotten what I chose!

Lastly, I was very touched that I received a Special Citation for this newsletter at our District III Meeting. I am very proud of this honor. Thank you! My goal is that I can give you, as a reader and a club member, a well-informed and interesting communication.

Feel free to give me any feedback on *The Digest* 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 everyone!

Time flies by so quickly when there are many events to attend, gardening to do, vacations, meetings, and special celebrations. It's been six months since my installation as Director and it's been a roller coaster of fun to meet fellow directors, attend garden club's anniversary parties, flower shows, and club meetings. I have inspired us with special programs such as the garden party tea at my house and the trip to Naumteag with lunch at the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge. For our NYS Conference, I have worked to

prepare reports, update lists for the state office, met with my board, partnered with the Kinderhook Girl Scout Troop to paint vases for the fall Floral Fantasy Meeting in Kingston, and last but not least, plan the Third District Fall Meeting.

If you weren't able to attend, we missed you, and hope you'll be free to join us in April 2016. The location for our Fall Meeting was gorgeous, the centerpieces were beautiful, and we had a delicious lunch. We were also pleased to have Pat Wania, President of FGCNYS attending. She was a delightful addition to the meeting, showing much enthusiasm.

Ways and Means tables were overflowing with a wonderful selection of items for all to purchase at a fair price. Thanks to everyone who donated!

Our jewelry vendor had a large selection of beautiful jewelry, scarves, and purses. What did you think of the horticulture DVD? The benefit table had something for just about everyone to take a chance on, great job everyone!

*(cont. on pg. 2)*



*Jeanne T. Nelson, floral designer, wowed us with her fabulous creative talents at our District Meeting. It was a joy to watch her create with ease a wonderful selection of floral designs.*

(from pg. 1)

Our education table allowed those to view pictures from many events held this year who weren't able to attend them. Included were the Garden Party Tea held during national Garden Club Week, the trip to Naumteag, and the Dried Flower workshop. We also had a poster that showed the Kinderhook Girl Scouts designing place cards for our meeting, along with pictures of their painted vases. This project was spearheaded by club member Aimee Strunk-Reinoehl. Her two daughters are scouts and she thought that this would make a great project for the troop. She asked them to design vases that asked the question 'What is a garden?' and 'What impacts a garden?' The scouts responses were amazing on our tables.

The masks members created were absolutely wonderful! Talk about creative design with any type of plant material, thank you everyone who participated. Three members were chosen by their peers using the Mask Voting Ballot for the categories of:

**Best Design:** Lynne Arnold, Community GC of Marlborough

**Best Use of Plant Material:** Carolyn West, Greenport GC

**Most Creative:** Joan Satterlee, Athens GC & Clematis GC

Jeanne T. Nelson, floral designer, wowed us with her fabulous creative talents. It was a joy to watch her create with ease a wonderful selection of floral designs.

Don't forget to RSVP to me to attend the Skills Workshop which will be held November 19 at the Hurley Reformed Church in Hurley, NY. The best of our best will update us on the following topics: Awards, Flower Show Schedules, Press Books/Publicity, and Yearbooks. This workshop is for everyone, new and seasoned members, come one, come all, we'll learn something new and share with everyone.

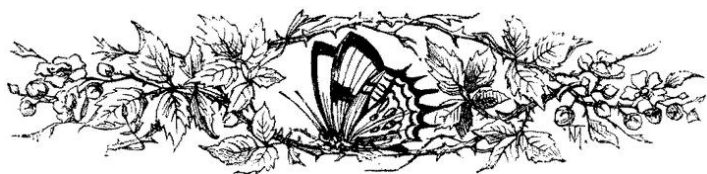
The 2016 Calendar of Events is also in this issue of *The Digest*. Please make note of meetings, trips, and events for the Third District. We are going to have FUN!

The Annual Meeting FGCNYS, will be held in April on Long Island. Let's see how many members we can get to attend. Plan a mini get-away before summer comes, see new faces, share ideas, laugh, eat, and relax.

Thank you everyone for a fabulous time this year, I've loved meeting new members, enjoyed your hospitality, energy, and enthusiasm supporting the FGCNYS!

Be well and enjoy the holidays,

*Camille McComb, Director*



## A REALLY BIG SHOW!

The District Board has voted to have an exhibit at the **Capital District Garden and Flower Show** held March 18–20, 2016. This show is held at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY. Each year approximately 15,000 targeted garden and flower enthusiasts attend.

For our exhibit, we would like to focus on what our clubs do in keeping with our mission with the National Garden Clubs, which is to provide education, resources, and national networking opportunities for members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. Hopefully this will excite interest in joining us.

We ask that your clubs provide us with any printed material that we can display in our booth, such as brochures or flyers promoting your club.

Also, please think about photos your club may have that exhibit our many wonderful endeavors that you can send us. Suggestions include: community gardens that you establish and maintain, educational programs held for the public, working with youth (poster/poetry contests), Blue Star markers, National Garden Week activities, garden tours, projects such as 'Plant It Pink', roadside and wildflower gardens, pollinators (bees, butterflies), historic decorations, environmental improvement, etc. Best photos would be of members actually doing things or showing the progress of the projects, rather than those of members lined up in poses (as in accepting awards or seated at lunch tables). There is some perception that we focus on floral design and not an awareness of a myriad of other activities we enjoy doing.

We welcome suggestions for displaying these things we do as clubs, whether a revolving slide show or other means, especially from any who have experience in exhibit design. Handouts from the State and National on the happenings we do and reasons for belonging to a garden club, and a composite list of all our clubs (with a contact person info, day or evening meetings, times of months, locales served, etc.) will be prepared. Later we will be asking for volunteers to help with composing parts of the exhibit, (such as a district map with pins of club locations), the handouts (which can be done at the State office), and finally asking for volunteers to staff the exhibit.

Send your suggestions to Cathy Fruhauf at [cathyfruhauf@hotmail.com](mailto:cathyfruhauf@hotmail.com) or Diane Madden at [ladydiane@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ladydiane@nycap.rr.com).

# THE WINTER ACONITE

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Greenport Garden Club

I remember my father planting hundreds of *Eranthis hyemalis* (winter aconite) bulbs in the fall. In March, this early blooming naturalizer emerges in a light blanket of snow with its lemon yellow flowers. Today I carry on that tradition and in September I order one hundred bulbs from the John Scheepers catalog that arrives in October just in time for planting. This 1570 heirloom prefers rich, moist, humus soil in partial shade but also thrives in full sun. I can attest to that! *Eranthis hyemalis* is also happy naturalizing in the light grass that is typical under trees and can spread itself around by seed. After blooming, the continuous mass of green leaves stay on until frost. It is one of the earliest bloomers that tell us spring is on its way and as a beekeeper it's the first flower in March that I see my bees on when the sun is out and the temperature reaches 50 degrees.



Photo by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

## HOW TO PLANT WINTER ACONITES

Unlike tulips and crocus, winter aconite bulbs aren't actually bulbs at all but tubers. These fleshy roots store moisture and food for the plant's growth and hibernation over the winter just like a bulb does. They should be planted late in the fall at the same time you dig in the other spring-flowering bulbs.

These small tubers need to be well-protected from harsh winter weather, so plant them about 5 inches deep from the base of the tuber to the surface of the soil. Winter aconite is a small plant, no more than 4 inches across for most plants, so don't worry about crowding them out in the garden bed. Plant them about 6 inches apart to allow room for spreading, and bury them in groups of odd numbers for the most attractive display.

From [www.gardeningknowhow.com](http://www.gardeningknowhow.com)

**GARDENING**  
IS CHEAPER THAN THERAPY  
AND YOU GET TOMATOES

This is a reminder to send me what your club does for Garden Therapy. I need this information to share with our membership so they can see all the good work our clubs do for this district-wide endeavor.

Send to:

**Vivian Waschsberger**  
vived@fairpoint.net

## DISTRICT III UPDATE

### DISTRICT THREE CLUBS, BY COUNTY

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

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

**Dutchess:** Pine Plains, Tioranda

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

**Rensselaer:** Greenbush

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

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

## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA: THE 2016 VISION OF BEAUTY DESK CALENDAR

The 2016 Vision of Beauty flower arrangement and engagement calendar created by National Garden Clubs is now available for purchase. It includes full-page color photos of many award-winning designs. The size of 5-1/2" by 8-1/2" is perfect for keeping track of weekly engagements or just jotting down what's growing in your garden. You will also find it to be a resource of flower design inspiration. Contact Diane Madden at 518-283-1067 or email her at ladydiane@nycap.rr.com for more information on how to get one. It's a great gift to give to your fellow gardeners.



## *New Address!*

### Federated Garden Clubs of NYS

As of August 1, 2015 the new office address is 21 A Brookedge, Guilderland, NY 12084-9110; phone and fax: 518-869-6311; email: fgcnys@verizon.net

The office is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Don't forget to make sure you change this in your club's Yearbook for 2016.**

## LANDSCAPE DESIGN

### Looking To The Future

*by Maryann Weber, District III Landscape Design Chair*

For many years Third District had an Unsolicited Landscape Design program. Twice each year landscapes of merit would be nominated for awards, one to a for-profit property, one to a not-for-profit property. Nominations rotated among our counties and were made by our clubs. The nominated properties were visited and evaluated by our Landscape Design Consultants, and winners were given certificates and invited to our spring and fall meetings, where they were invited to tell us about their landscaping choices.

Loss of clubs in some areas led to difficulties in getting enough nominations, and too often there was such disparity among properties nominated for the same award that comparative evaluation was ridiculous. How do you choose between Mohonk Mountain House and a gas station? Reluctantly, we dropped the program. I don't think it could be revived as constituted.

Still—landscape design is an important part of what garden clubs are about. Some of our clubs give Golden Trowel type awards to properties in their territories, residential, and/or commercial. Perhaps encouraging that and putting it into some sort of District framework would be the way to go. I hope to get something in place next spring and am totally open to ideas. I'd love to hear from you at [junco@fairpoint.net](mailto:junco@fairpoint.net) or 518-758-7189.



## Poetry Contest: Garden Blooms 2016

by Barbara Millington, FGCNYS Youth Chairman

Here is a great way to get young people interested in gardening. Encourage students to express their thoughts through different types of poetry. Let them use their imagination and enjoy seeing the winning poets' work published in a printed booklet to be presented in the fall.

### Eligibility

Open to all youth, pre-school through high school.

### Contest Rules

Judging will be done according to age/grade categories.

- All entries must be typed and titled.
- Include type of poem they have written.
- Include name, address, age, grade, and school of participation.
- Sponsoring garden club must be identified.
- All entries become property of FGCNYS, Inc.
- Poems may be traditional verse, acrostic, blank verse, cinquain, diamond poems, limerick, or haiku.

### Scale of Points

- Title: 10%
- Creativity: 30%
- Content: 40%
- Style: 20%

### Deadline: March 31, 2016

Send to: Barbara Millington, State Youth Chairman  
546 County Rt. 76, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
bmillington@nycap.rr.com



## GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

### THINK ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUR CLUB

by Jean E. Stapleton, FGCNYS Grant/Scholarship Chair

#### Scholarships

College students always appreciate a monetary aid to further their education. National Garden Clubs, Central Atlantic Region, and Federated Garden Clubs of New York State have scholarships to offer. Anyone who has completed at least one year in a college program and who expects to continue in one of the following fields is eligible to apply: horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, botany, plant botany, forestry, conservation, agronomy, environmental studies, city planning, land management, wild life science, or other allied subjects.

#### FGCNYS School Scholarships

These scholarships may be awarded through each District and are non-competitive. One paid full course scholarship per calendar year will, upon application from the District Director, be granted to a member of each District to attend one course in any school conducted in New York State (flower show school, symposium, landscape design study school, gardening study school, environmental studies school, or NYS horticulture school).

Each FGCNYS School Scholarship includes the fee for the course and may include the examination fee, but does not include transportation or other expenses.

The scholarship may NOT be used for a symposium taken for credit or in any school as a refresher.

#### Grants

Colleges, botanical gardens, and other worthy institutions are invited to apply for a Federated Garden Clubs of New York State grant to continue their enhancement projects.

For additional information and application forms for any of the above, contact:

Jean E. Stapleton,  
FGCNYS Grant/Scholarship Chair  
725 Johnson Ave., Herkimer, NY 13350  
315-866-1642  
stegar9@hotmail.com

## ATHENS COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Katherine Montague

### Fund-raising Events

Our club has two major fund-raising events each year. The first is a bake sale that is scheduled the same day as the Athens' Yard Sale Day at the end of August. A majority of members contribute baked goods and it is always quite successful.

Our most profitable fund-raising event is our Holiday Luncheon and Auction. We used to hold it early in December, but last year scheduled it mid-November and decided that there were fewer scheduling conflicts then. The lunch is held at Pegasus, a restaurant in Coxsackie, and the cost is \$20 per person. We have a Chinese auction, a silent auction, and a live auction. Members contribute baked goods, hand-made crafts, and gift baskets. For several years a friend of the club has made a gingerbread house that has been raffled off and raised quite a bit of money. Members invite guests and we typically have about 60-plus attendees. This year our Holiday Luncheon and Auction was held on November 12.



*Above: Gingerbread houses ready for the raffle.*



*Left: Members and their guests at the Holiday Luncheon. Back row (l-r): Agie Seife, Jane Hale, Nancy Clark (guest), Trudy Devlin. Seated (l-r): Linda Schawo, Shirley Seipel, and Kay Maher (guest).*

## CLEMATIS GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Jean H. Horn

The Clematis Garden Club is celebrating its 75th year! On May 14, 1940, seven garden-minded ladies in our Greenville area met at Miss May Chatterton's home. This was not just an afternoon of tea and cookies, it was to result in the formation of the Clematis Garden Club, named for the luxurious clematis vine growing over Miss Chatterton's front door.

For our November 13 Holiday Luncheon, which will be held at Pegasus Restaurant, we have invited our club's past presidents to 'Honor our Past and Look to the Future.' Nick Nahas, past club historian, will give a presentation about the 75 years of history for our club. New officers will be installed by County Chair, Carole Garver.

### Fund-raising Events

In April, we host a Spring Tea at no charge, which is a combination of offering a well-known speaker (this year we had Kerry Mendez present a wonderful and interesting program) and refreshments. This Spring Tea is

also an opportunity for potential members to meet us and to see and hear what gardening activities our club participates in. We normally receive dues from several new members. We also have added a silent auction, which often almost covers the cost of the speaker. Our club also holds a very successful plant sale on Memorial Day weekend.

Another fund-raising event we do is a Garden Tour covering different areas of our locality every year. To find potential gardens, we question other members and drive around. If we see a possible garden, we immediately stop and walk around the yard. The best time to look at possible gardens is on weekdays because no one is usually home. What would we say if the owners came out and asked "what are you doing in our backyard?" And worse, what if we decided the garden didn't quite measure up for us to charge the public to come look at it? Luckily, in 6 years, only one owner was home and they didn't want to have the

public tour their garden, which was good because it turned out that they really didn't have much of a garden.

Over the 6 years that we have held garden tours in different country neighborhoods, we have found fabulous gardens and the nicest and most welcoming garden owners ever. We charge \$10 and have two garden club members at each garden to check tickets and answer any questions. We print a booklet with the owner's description of their gardens, plus driving directions. The booklet is also used as an entry ticket. We normally have six to nine gardens on the tour depending on their size and how far apart they are. This has been fun, a great fund-raiser, and we recommend holding a Garden Tour to other garden clubs.

Another thing we do to raise funds is offer a bus tour to visit public gardens/arboretums. Holding these distinctly different fund-raisers throughout the year has kept our club active and well known in the area.

## GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

On September 15, the club visited the home and gardens of Kevin Jacobs in Valatie. Kevin is an award-winning food, garden, and lifestyle guru. His gardening articles have appeared in *African Violet Magazine*, *Berkshire Home Style Magazine*, and *Garden Design Magazine*. His recipes have appeared in dozens of newspapers. The club toured his four-acre garden for a “September Walk in the Garden.” Included were formal rose gardens, theme gardens, and many garden rooms. Kevin’s mission is to show how anyone can have a beautiful garden through the creative use of plants and their placement in the environment.

On October 20, the club hosted a Holiday Greenery Workshop. Member and floral designer Linda Saulpaugh demonstrated the making of a table-top tree. Attendees constructed a tree using boxwood cuttings on an oasis base. Everyone was able to complete their tree and take it home. This workshop gave members inspiration to learn about holiday greenery and how they can contribute one of these trees to the club’s holiday open house fund raiser.

### Fund-raising Events

The Germantown Garden Club uses a number of events to raise money to fund their many philanthropic projects. The major fund raising event is the club’s annual plant sale. This past year, due

to increased expenses, a tag sale was added to the plant sale, and generated more funds. We will add this aspect to future plant sales. Another fund-raising event takes place in December at our annual Holiday Open House. Hand-decorated wreaths and member-created table arrangements are sold. A boutique sale of donated items as well as hand-made crafts is also offered for sale.

After last year’s Holiday Open House, some voices suggested that we work as a group on some crafts for the next one. We are hoping to successfully sell some crafts to create more funds to increase our educational and charitable presence in the community.

Members Mattie Gifford, Elke Crane, Irene Clum, and Mary Anne McCormack followed through. The Palatine Manor in Germantown graciously offered the community room for the first “crafts meeting” which took place on October 15.

During this meeting, the group created large paper stars of various colors and stars from wooden cloths pins. They also went over the “how to” for other suitable holiday crafts. Each of them walked away with many creative ideas to contribute to our next Open House. We are hoping to have more of these get-togethers in the future.



*Left: Members visit Kevin Jacobs' gardens for a 'September Walk in the Garden.'*

*Right: The Holiday Greenery Workshop. Members Irene Clum, Joyce Vale, Mattie Gifford, and Mary Anne McCormack busy at work.*

*Bottom: Examples of some of the holiday crafts that members are working on for the Club's upcoming Holiday Open House*





Above: Our membership table at the Fort Crailo Harvest Faire.

Below: Members tour the gardens of Stanley Lee at his historic home.

## GREENBUSH GARDEN CLUB

RENSSELAER COUNTY

by Diane Madden

Now that our summer vacation is over, the Greenbush Garden Club is back to business as usual, with new officers and new committee chairs. The first meeting on September 1 featured Roger Savoy, president of Home Brew Emporium, who did a program for the club 'Wine About Your Garden.' This program explained how to make wine out of just about anything that grows (lots of guests showed up for this one). He gave examples of different herbs and spices that can be grown in your yard to flavor your homemade libations.

On Saturday September 12, the club set up a membership/information table at the Fort Crailo Harvest Faire in Rensselaer. We never give up on our quest for new members.

The program at the October 6 meeting was 'In Adoration of Orchids.' Stanley Lee, past-president of the North East Orchid Society, brought some gorgeous orchid specimens to the meeting and instructed us on their care and cultivation. That Saturday club members toured his orchid greenhouse and his awesome historic home The Swart House that he has lived in with his lovely wife Fern for the past 50 years. Now the club is busy planning for upcoming holiday events.

## Increase Awareness and Encourage Conservation

The 2015-2017 NGC President's Special 2-Year Project, "Service in Action," is intended to increase awareness of the seriousness of the demise of pollinators and amphibians and encourage conservation and protection efforts by clubs, the general public, and governmental agencies.

### NGC Service In Action Special 2 Year President's Project

Often called the first bio-indicators; amphibians and pollinators, by their presence, abundance, and activities reveal the state of their ecosystems. Pollinator and amphibian populations are declining worldwide through

the effects of pesticides, habitat destruction, diseases, parasites, global warming, and introduced predators. Education, habitat conservation, and protection of at risk populations are issues we can change through our actions.

Clubs, states, and regions are encouraged to participate in the BeeGAP, Monarch Watch, The Frightened Frog, and Backyard Wildlife Habitat programs and projects designed to engage members in efforts to protect and conserve these important populations.

For your 2016 programs, it would be a good idea to incorporate some of these messages into your programs.





## GREENPORT GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Maria Kolodziej-Zinco

It's been a fabulous time for its members in absorbing all the wonderful and creative workshops that the Greenport Garden Club hosted in the past few months, particularly the workshops in Flower Show Design and Biodynamic Gardening. From organically preparing the soil for plants to staging floral designs for county competitions, the club gained some valuable information. Garden club members were presented with an array of ideas to work with for both flowers and vegetables. With new members on board, the art of floral design was on top of the list. In addition, the idea of a biodynamic garden without pesticides and toxic chemicals using a permaculture model that combines the best of natural landscaping while enriching the soil, was also engaging to our members. This is the wave of future gardening that is ecologically and environmentally effective for sustainable living. Best yet, your gardens are pollinator friendly.

We were thrilled to have guest speaker Barbara Campbell, accredited flower show judge and former state president of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. Barbara shared her expertise on the principles, elements, and mechanics of floral design. The principles and elements are the tools of traditional design-style and the foundation for American garden clubs throughout the country. At the end of this informative workshop Barbara's floral designs were auctioned off to its members—we clearly saved the best for last!

Ruth Tourjee, a long time member of the Germantown Garden Club, presented a workshop in Biodynamic Gardening. Ruth shared her methods and practices in raising a holistic, ecological, and ethical approach to gardening that provides sustainable food and nutrition. Permaculture integrates people into Nature's design. A permaculture design provides us an aesthetic and spiritual fulfillment within a balanced and healthy biological community. Our garden club members walked away with a whole new sense of awareness for gardening.

In September, the Greenport Garden Club took part in celebrating the Columbia County Fair's 175th anniversary by honoring the fair's 'Floral Parades of Years Gone By' with a booth design to represent the fair's long-ago tradition of floral floats. The club staged their exhibit with flowers, plants, wagon wheels, and photographs of past fairs. The club received many nostalgic items from the community to reflect the fair's past history of floral parades. This educational exhibit was designed by the Greenport Garden Club's Columbia County Fair Committee chaired by Yetta Teo and included club members JoAnn Concra, Lynn Kowalski, Sue and Charlie Dillhoff, Cindi Hockenberry, Kathy Bucholsky, Angela Rapp, and Agnes LaSalvia.



*Above right: Barbara Campbell conducts workshop on floral design.*

*Above left: Greenport Garden Club at the Columbia County Fair. Left to Right: Kathy Bucholsky, Sue Dillhoff, Cindi Hockenberry, Yetta Teo, and Agnes LaSalvia.*

*Bottom: Greenport Garden Club Workshop "Biodynamic Gardening" presented by Ruth Tourjee. Left to Right: Nancy Westbrook, Ruth Tourjee, and Judy Zink.*



### Greenport Garden Club Calendar

**December 3:** Workshop: Holiday Arrangements for the Community. Designing holidays greens and luncheon at the home of garden club member Margaret Groll.

**December 4–6:** Gallery of Wreaths, Vanderpoel House, Kinderhook, NY.

**December 10:** Greenport holiday luncheon and installation of officers at the home of garden club member Nancy Westbrook.

## GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by *Merril-Lee Lenegar*

On July 16, the Guilderland Garden Club hosted a Victorian Garden Tea at the historic Mynderse-Frederick House in Guilderland Center to celebrate the club's golden anniversary. All of the District III clubs were invited, and quite a few did send a representative(s). We were honored to have the FGCNYS President Pat Wania and District III Director Camille McComb attend and give comments. Also Ken Runion, Guilderland Town Supervisor, was present. The attendees enjoyed a variety of tea sandwiches, desserts, and beverages made by club members and were seated at tables set-up throughout the house decorated in Victorian-style with linen table cloths and napkins, china, crystal, and silver. Each table also had a small flower arrangement made by members and painted bird houses made by Judi Golombiski and Pam Snyder. Nancy Stahl made beautiful flower arrangements for several locations in the house and several members helped Carol Samsonoff with arrangements using dried peonies as the main flower for gold tussie musses that hung from the staircase railing and on the side of the parlor fireplace.

The August meeting was held at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville. Members were treated to a tour and a discussion of the beautiful gardens by Master Gardener Kathy Gifford. It was followed by a brown bag lunch in the gazebo.

On September 14, Camille McComb attended the Guilderland Garden Club meeting to install the new officers: Merrill-Lee Lenegar, President; Maureen McNamara, Vice President; Judi Golombiski and Linda Miller, Co-Secretaries; and Kris Vogt, Treasurer. Following the installation, everyone enjoyed a pot-luck luncheon.

The date of the Open House and Greens Show has been set for December 4 from 4–8 p.m. and December 5 and 6 from 1–5 p.m. at the Mynderse-Frederick House, located on Route 146 in Guilderland Center. The theme this year is Santa's Workshop. Members will be busy over the next two months making ornaments to be used to decorate the tree and house for this annual free community event. Teams will decorate the rooms, and members will make wreaths and arrangements for sale along with the ornaments. Nonperishable food items will be collected for the Regional Food Bank and a portion of the proceeds from the show will be given to a local organization. Visitors will enjoy musical entertainment and refreshments made by club members.

### Fund-raising Events

We have an annual open house and greens show in early December each year that is free to the public. However, we do accept donations, sell homemade wreaths, arrangements, and ornaments that are made by club members. Each year we have a different theme for the open house and the ornaments we make fit with the theme. This year's theme is Santa's Workshop.



*Photos from our Victorian Tea event.*

## HUGH PLAT GARDEN CLUB

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

by Mary Ann DeFonce

Each September, the Hugh Plat Garden Club decorates the Schenectady County Historical Building for the Stockade Walkabout. The city of Schenectady has an area of over 40 homes dating back to pre-Revolutionary times, with architectural styles including Dutch Colonial, Georgian, Federal, and Victorian. The area, called the Stockade, was New York State's first Historic District.

Each September, the city holds an event called the Stockade Walkabout, where you can tour the area, including the insides of different homes and buildings. Hugh Plat Garden Club has the honor of decorating the Schenectady County Historical Building inside and out for this event. Our members canvas local garden centers, asking for donations of pumpkins, gourds, hay bales, corn stalks, and mums. The vendors have always been so generous, making the outside display truly exceptional. Our club members then make arrangements, usually from their own gardens, to decorate the inside of the Historical building. This year the Walkabout weekend included a beer making exhibit and walking tour of historical brewery sites, exposing our beautiful fall display to even more people. Garden Club members created arrangements for the inside of the building, along with wreaths for the front and back doors. Our members sought donations from very generous local vendors for the exterior display. Our September meeting was final planning for this event.

Our October 16 meeting was a tour of the Mabee Farm Historical Site. The Mabee Farm was settled in 1705 by Jan and Annetje Mabee, and was inhabited by their descendants for three hundred years before becoming an historic site. Club member Mary Reagan set this event up for us. Also at this meeting, we discussed plans for our November project, decorating the Schenectady County Historical Building for their ninth annual Festival of Trees.

In November, we will have a work-day at the home of our president, Sue Bushman, to make wreaths, garlands, and decorations. Then at our November 20 meeting we will bring the Historical Building to life with our theme, VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS. The Festival of trees runs from November 27 to December 13. Our December meeting will be our Christmas party, held again this year at the beautiful Van Dyke Restaurant in Schenectady.



*Above: At a garden center from which we received a donation.*

*Below: President, Sue Bushman, puts final touches to the front door wreath.*

*Left: Club members left to right: Mary Ann De Fonce, Sue Bushman, Hannah Pavoldi, Norma Maughan, and Fran Scrafford at the Schenectady County Historical Building.*

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Heaney and Cynthia Bogardus

The Garden Club of Kinderhook welcomed new members Marge Calyer, Bonnie Flynn, and Carol Seastrand at a luncheon tea held at the home of Camille McComb on September 1. The Board of Directors explained the club's objectives to the new members. The Board also created a delicious lunch with fabulous desserts.

Earlier in the day, Fran Heaney, Cynthia Bogardus, and Carol Seastrand installed the club's booth at the Columbia County Fair, complete with photographs from the many club activities. Sue Chiafullo, Anne Schomaker, Bonnie Flynn, and Sue Sweet created gorgeous floral arrangements for the booth.

The club met at the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site on November 16 to plan the Lindenwald holiday decorations. This year Lindenwald will highlight Van Buren's Secretary of War and former minister to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett who introduced the poinsettia to the United States in 1825. Over 100 poinsettias have been ordered to celebrate the holiday season.

Garden Club members and the National Park Service staff will meet for a delicious breakfast on December 3 and then decorate the historic house with poinsettias, pine bows, and surprises. Lindenwald will be open to the public on December 5 from noon to 4pm.

On November 17, members were treated to a demonstration by world-class florist David Siders at Experience and Creative Design in Schenectady. The multi-talented David shared many ideas for making our homes festive for holiday entertaining. The shop was breathtakingly decorated for the holidays, with every corner featuring a different theme or motif. The color schemes were spectacular!

### Fund-raising Events

by Roberta Smith

Our biggest fund-raiser is our Annual Plant, Bake, and Tag Sale held in May in the Village Square of Kinderhook. Members provide plants, shrubs, and trees taken from their own gardens, as well as baked goods and tag sale items. We hold this event on a Saturday morning from 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Despite the late spring this year, we had our most financially successful sale.

Another general fund-raiser is a Tag Sale held in September. We hold this on the same day as the Kinderhook Village Wide Tag Sale. Along with member's donated items, we also donate plants from our gardens. We're thinking of increasing plant sales and garden items for next year's tag sale.

Our other fund-raising effort is to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. The GCOK provides two \$1,000 Scholarships to graduating high school seniors. This year we held a Croquet Tournament in August. We solicited donations from area businesses. Along with the fun of playing croquet, we also raised substantial money. The Croquet Tournament was held on the grounds of the Vanderpoel House in the Village of Kinderhook. We had 4 regulation-sized courts. The event was open to the membership and to the public. Admittance was \$10 per person. Advertisement was done by posters displayed around the county. The club printed a brochure of the event listing all the sponsors and directions on how to play croquet. Officials were on hand to monitor each game and declare the winners. Our Croquet Tournament is a biannual event.

The second scholarship fund-raiser we do is a luncheon and silent auction. This was held in September. Members donated items, some used and some new. We had some handmade knitting items, homemade food baskets, wine baskets, horseback riding items, and even airplane rides along with some lovely home items. This was also successful.

I can't state enough that the success is due to the commitment and efforts of our club members. We will be establishing a fund-raising committee to help with fund-raising ideas and projects for the upcoming year.



Left: New members are welcomed to the club.

Below: The club visits florist David Siders at his shop in Schenectady.



## SCHOHARIE GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Anne Bielauski

On Nov 12–14 2015 our club held a Flower Show ‘All Things Great and Small’ at the Schoharie Library. This year we chose our theme around this topic as we are including miniature arrangements. For our September meeting, we all made fairy gardens, so we will be including these in the show. Our local library is actually a beautiful Victorian home, so there are many rooms; therefore, each member makes an arrangement for a particular room. We have a member or two at the show at all times, offering information, cookies, and punch. It is really a nice event that we look forward to each year. We mainly advertise by word of mouth, flyers we put around town, and in the local paper. All the arrangements must be made with fresh flowers or dried plant material.

On Wednesday, Dec 2, 2015 our club will have our annual holiday luncheon. This year our ‘Christmas Splendor’ luncheon will be at the Best Western, Cobleskill. Our guest speaker will be Michelle Peters from Ambiance Florals and Events. This event is open to all.



*Miniature arrangements at the flower show “All Things Great and Small.” The show was held at the Schoharie Library.*

*Below: Highlights from the show.*



## SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Deborah W. Stack

In November, the Shawangunk Garden Club will be decorating The Terwilliger House Museum, which is part of The Ellenville Public Library for the holidays. This is a community service for the surrounding towns. People come to view our handiwork, and to share in the holiday spirit.

In December, The Noonday Club holds a senior holiday dinner, and our garden club members create holiday centerpieces (to be taken home by the seniors).

### Fund-raising Events

The Shawangunk Garden Club is dedicated to providing horticulture education and civic beautification throughout the townships of Wawarsing and Rochester in Ulster County, and Mamakating in Sullivan County. The club holds several fund-raising events throughout the year in order to engage speakers for club meetings and to purchase flowers, plantings, trees, shrubs, and soil for community gardens.

Fund-raising events in 2015 were very profitable. We held a Mother's Day Plant Sale, a plant/book/vase sale at the Blueberry Festival, and a Vintage Fashion Show and Dessert Gala.

The Mother's Day Plant Sale was held on May 9, the Saturday before Mother's Day, at the Ellenville Gazebo in the middle of town along Route 209. This is an annual event and local people look forward to purchasing hanging baskets each year. The 200 baskets, together with some bedding plants, are ordered from a local nursery that delivers them. We charge \$20 per basket. We open for business with a line waiting at 9 a.m. We usually are sold out before noon! Garden gloves were also sold for \$7 each during the Plant Sale.

The Blueberry Festival, held on August 8 is an annual community street fair open to civic organizations and vendors who rent a space along Canal Street. This event draws local citizens and tourists. Club members took turns manning the booth and gave gardening tips. We sold garden gloves as well as plants, books, and vases that were donated from members.

The most enjoyable fund-raising event was our Vintage Fashion Show and Dessert Gala held on Saturday, August 22 in a beautiful air-conditioned local church social hall. This project took a lot of planning on behalf of the Program Committee who worked on it for over a year. Vintage costumes from the 1890's to the 1970's were collected from the local Thrift Shop, the wardrobe attic of the local theatre, and Club member's closets. Costume selection was scrutinized, club members were selected to model, and a script was written for the fashion show. In the meantime, club members were asked to pre-sell show tickets priced at \$10 each, sell raffle tickets for

a donated vintage quilt, and contribute two desserts and one floral arrangement for the tables. The floral arrangement gave members a chance to practice their floral design skills and would be given away to guests at the end of the show. Rehearsals and church hall set-up took two days with most members participating. The day of the show was bustling. Last minute set-up included table service, arranging floral designs on tables and in the entrance way, dessert table buffet, and making the coffee, tea, iced tea, and lemonade. Club members came through with extra desserts and created more than one floral design! Club members were assigned duty stations. Tickets for the show and raffle were sold at the door. The garden gloves were also sold. We anticipated 60 guests and the hall was set up accordingly. In reality we had over 120 guests in attendance! Every chair was used and there was standing room only! The show was emceed by a club member, a volunteer played an electric piano, the models had fun with the script on the runway to the delight of the audience, our club president gave a history of the club and the desserts were scrumptious! Everyone who attended had a good time and the guests went home happy with a floral arrangement. For a first time event, the show was highly successful as it brought in needed funds while entertaining the public. The added bonus was the camaraderie it brought to our members who worked together for a common cause.

The Shawangunk Garden Club has worked hard since 1927 to establish a reputation for beautiful gardens, providing classy social events such as Flower Shows and Victorian Teas, and offering educational lectures on gardening and conservation to the public at club meetings. Now we can add the Vintage Fashion Show and Dessert Gala to our repertoire.



*Pat Foster at the Terwilliger Museum decorating for the holidays.*

# Awards

by Patricia Blundell, Awards Coordinator



## THIRD DISTRICT AWARDS

### Special Achievement #10. c. i:

Karin Janson, Third District Digest Editor

### Special Achievement #3. A:

Projects conducted at the E. J. Arthurs Elementary School involving Kindergarten to 4th Grade:  
Athens Community Garden Club

### Civic Concern—Roadside Beautification #6. A.i:

Greenbush Garden Club

### Civic Concern—Youth Education #6.b. i:

Greenbush Garden Club

### Educational Exhibit #17:

Greenbush Library, Greenbush Garden Club

### Horticulture Therapy #38. A. i:

Greenbush Garden Club.

### Civic Concern #6. d. i:

Fort Crailo Historic Site, Greenbush Garden Club

### Standard Flower Show Citation:

Germantown Garden Club—"The Romance of the Garden"

### Small Standard Flower Shows Citation:

Community Garden Club of Marlborough—"Spotlight"

### Small Standard Flower Show Citation:

Saugerties Society of Little Gardens—"Joy of the Garden." Also includes a Judges Council Award of \$25 for First Flower Show held In Five or More Years

### Standard Flower Show Schedule Citation:

Germantown Garden Club

### Publication Citations:

Germantown Garden Club

### Yearbook Citations:

Class I

First: Catskill Garden Club

Second: Saugerties Society of Little Gardens

Class II

First: Guilderland Garden

Second: Greenport Garden Club

Third: Greenbush Garden Club

Honorable Mention: Schoharie Valley Garden Club

### Class III

First: Germantown Garden Club

Second: Tie with Community Garden Club of Athens and New Paltz Garden Club

### Class IV

First: Shawangunk Garden Club

Second: Kinderhook Garden Club

Third: Tioranda Garden Club

Special Award to H. Gilbert Harlow Garden Club for having a beautiful yearbook for many years. Application was late due to error on part of FGCNYS secretary who is no longer working for us.

## FGCNYS, INC. AWARDS.

### CLUB ANNIVERSARY CITATIONS:

Tioronda Garden Club	25 Years
Coxsackie Garden Club	75 Years
Clematis Garden Club	75 Years
Pine Plains Garden Club	81 Years
Germantown Garden Club	82 Years
Little Garden Club of Kingston	84 Years
Shawangunk Garden Club	86 Years
Saugerties Society of Little Gardens	87 Years
Community Garden Club of Marlborough	90 Years
Garden Club of Kinderhook	91 Years

### CLUB RECOGNITION CITATIONS:

Athens Community Garden Club  
Greenbush Garden Club  
Guilderland Garden Club  
Shawangunk Garden Club  
Saugerties Society of Little Gardens

### YOUTH POETRY CONTEST AWARDS:

Athens Community Garden Club

## NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION:

### PRESS BOOK:

Germantown Garden Club, District III

### CERTIFICATE—STANDARD FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Germantown Garden Club "Into the Wild"

Special thanks to all the clubs who shared their wonderful projects with us by applying for awards.

# LINKING FRIENDS, SHARING IDEAS, AND HAVING FUN

Highlights from The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Fall Conference  
 September 28–29, 2015 Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, 40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY



Barbara Campbell gave a great flower demo on making arrangements with store-bought flowers.



First-place winning floral arrangement.



Sue Adams' program 'New Plants for 2016' was very informative and exciting to see what's in store for next year.



Dr. Maria Perri, gave us some good tips on how to save our backs when we garden.



The dining venue.



President Pat Wania and NYS Officers.



Education exhibits at the conference were very informative.



Candace Morgenstern presented some great ideas for design.



This was a tall free-standing one that she made from leaves for the container.



More great examples of Candace Morgenstern's designs that showcased beautiful and unusual plant materials and containers.



### GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE—SCHOHARIE

*Carole Garvar, Chair*

The Club Presidents and Vice Presidents met at their annual luncheon to plan for County Day 2016. It will be held on August 25, 2016 at Pegasus Restaurant. There will be a luncheon, tour of the historic Bronck Museum located in Coxsackie, and a presentation on Wine Making in the Hudson River Valley by Sylvia Hasenkopf, noted historian and author. Watch for more information in the future.

All clubs are decorating their communities for the holidays with swags for public spaces, urns along streets, and Christmas Trees in public and historic locations.

#### Athens Community Garden Club

Annual Holiday Luncheon and Auction, November 12, 2015 at noon. Pegasus Restaurant, 10885 Rt. 9W Coxsackie. Home baked items, handmade goods and many other interesting things will be auctioned off. All are invited. Contact Chairperson Anita Benjamin at 518-945-1117 for reservations.

#### Catskill Garden Club

“A Garden Club Christmas” and the famous Cookie Walk will be held on December 5, 2015 from 11 AM to 5 PM, Main Street, Catskill. Christmas decorations and other crafts are for sale.

#### Clematis Garden Club

Holiday Luncheon “Honoring the Past; Looking to the Future” on November 13, 2015 at noon. Presenter will be Nick Nahas with a presentation on the 75-year history of Clematis.

#### Coxsackie Garden Club

“Christmas by the River” on December 6, 2015. The club will be at the Heermance Library selling baked goods, fudge, and handmade gifts.

#### Schoharie Valley Garden Club

“Christmas Splendor,” a Holiday Luncheon and Boutique on December 2, 2015 at noon at the Best Western Hotel in Cobleskill, NY. Contact Marie Muller, Chairperson, at 518-295-8698 for reservations.



## Fund-Raising Auction Ideas

*by Karin Janson*

I was intrigued by Athens Community Garden Club's auction that they hold at their holiday luncheon. They have three different types! I asked club president Katherine Montague to explain them to me as I didn't really know the ins and outs of how to go about organizing them. She shared some great insights that I think you might consider as fund-raising ideas.

**What is a Chinese Auction and why is called that?** I had never heard of it before either and you probably know it by another name. You put items out on a table and place a bag next to each item. People buy tickets and then place one or more in the bag next to the item they want to win. At some point during the event, you draw the ticket that wins the item. I think it is similar to a nickel social, but in that case, each ticket is worth a nickel, I believe.

**What is a Silent Auction?** You put the items out on a table with a piece of paper where people enter their name and what they are willing to pay for it. You usually have a minimum bid and then people can raise the amount. At some point you read off the items with the highest amount bid and that person wins it.

**What is a Live Auction?** You have an auctioneer who describes an item and again mentions a minimum bid. Then people keep raising their bids until no one wants to raise it any more and that person wins.

**What are the benefits of these types of auctions and what are the pitfalls?** We decided that if we gave people different options, they would spend more money. Strangely, in the live auction, one of the things people are willing to spend most money on is baked goods. Certain people have specific specialties that people are willing to spend quite a bit of money on. Three years ago we tried auctioning off a special gingerbread house a friend of mine made and it went for \$30 or so. I ended up bidding for it myself (I gave it to the senior center) because I knew how much work went into it and I wasn't willing to have it go for so little. The following year we raffled it off—a much better idea because all you were going to spend was \$5 or so on CHANCES to win the gingerbread house. For the last two years we earned over \$100 on the gingerbread raffle.

**Editor's note:** Regarding Chinese Auctions, it is unclear whether this type of auction actually originates in China; it is much more likely that the term derives from “chance auction,” which is also another name for this type of auction. The term “Chinese” may have been used in this case to convey that this type of auction was mysterious, intriguing, or secretive. *From Wikipedia.*

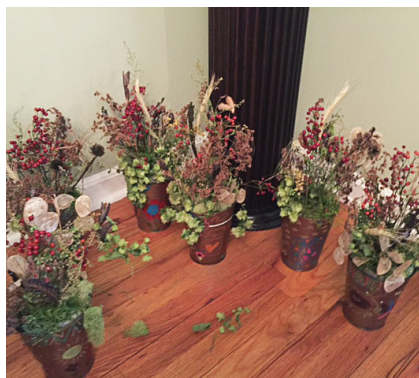


## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL DISTRICT MEETING:

# Fall Floral Fantasy

October 15, 2015

Best Western Plus, 503 Washington Avenue, Kingston, NY



Vases that the Kinderhook Girl Scouts made for the tables.



Waiting for the program to begin.



FGCNY President Pat Wania.



The raffle table. Some great things offered.



Camille McComb introduces Jeanne Nelson, who gave a great flower arranging presentation.



This was one of them.



Wearing hats appropriate for the season.



Lynn Arnold's winning mask.



Carolyn West and her mask.



Joan Satterlee's mask.



# Clubs Calendar 2015

## November 19

*Third District Skills Workshop*, Learn about Awards, Flower Show Schedules, Publicity/Press Books, and Yearbooks. 10 a.m., Hurley Reformed Church, 147 Griffin Dr., Hurley.

## December 4–6

*Gallery of Wreaths*, Vanderpoel House of History, Kinderhook. Columbia County Garden Clubs' wreath donations will be on display. Fri. 12–4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Sun. 12–4 p.m..

## December 5

*A Garden Club Christmas*, Catskill Garden Club, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Famous 'Cookie Walk' along with Christmas decorations and crafts for sale. Main St., Catskill.

## December 5

*Lindenwald's Winter Celebration*, Kinderhook Garden Club, Noon–4 p.m. Historic house decorated by members.

## December 5–6

*Holiday Open House at the Palatine Parsonage*, Germantown Garden Club, Sat. 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Sun. 1–3 p.m. Horticulture show 'Winter Container Plants' and sale of handmade wreaths, table arrangements, and crafts. 52 Maple Ave., Germantown.

## December 5–6

*Open House and Greens Show*, Guilderland Garden Club, 1–5 p.m. Theme: Santa's Workshop. Wreaths and arrangements for sale. Mynderse-Frederick House, Route 146, Guilderland.

## December 6

*Christmas by the River*, Coxsakie Garden Club. Heermance Library. Baked goods, fudge, and crafts for sale.

## March 17, 2016

*District Board Meeting*, Red's, Coxsakie.

## April 11–12, 2016

*FGCNYS, Inc. Annual Meeting*, Hyatt Westin Hotel, Hauppauge, Long Island.

## April 21, 2016

*Third District Spring Meeting*, 'Sunny Days.' Kozel's Restaurant, Ghent.

## June 7, 2016

*Celebrate Garden Week*, Home of Director Camille McComb, Kinderhook.

## July 21, 2016

*District Trip*, Mac-Hayden Theater, Chatham.

## October 20, 2016

*Fall District Meeting*, 'Autumn Leaves.' Wiltwyck Golf Club, Kingston.

## Hypertufa Pots, A Great Fund-Raiser

by Kathy Bucholsky

On October 10, at the annual Hudson Valley Bountiful Chili Fest and at the Columbia County Council on the Arts ArtsWalk Artist Marketplace at the Hudson River park, the Greenport Garden Club participated by having a pop-up tent selling their ever-popular hypertufa pots and air plants. Hypertufa is great for making garden ornaments, pots, and land-forms. These beautiful pots and plants are a hot item among the crowd. Back by popular demand our club also had unusual ceramic character rocks for sale. Members prepared for this event with many workshops throughout the year in learning how to create the pots and paint the rocks. All money raised goes toward our scholarship awards and various educational programs.



Top: Hypertufa Pots and Plant Sale. Left to Right: Sue and Charlie Dillhoff

Bottom: Greenport Garden Clubs' Creative Rocks.

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

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

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

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