

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



NOVEMBER 2019

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From the Director



It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Annual Fall Conference on October 17 in Kingston. We were honored to have Vikki Bellias, FGCNYS President, with us for the event and I was grateful for her help in handing out all those wonderful awards earned by District III's clubs. Our presenter was Chris Grigas and he did an enjoyable demonstration of flower arrangements that were not only suitable for home use but were also fast and easy to make. I'm sure everyone present took home some ideas of arrangements for the holidays.

It's been a busy year for the District, which included flower shows, garden tours, field trips, fund-raisers, community support, and club meetings. So much going on and it hasn't ended yet. There are historic houses to be decorated, holiday fund-raisers to be held, winter luncheons to be enjoyed. And before we know it, the holidays will have flown past and we will be in the quiet days of winter. Then, slowly, there will be small bumps on tree limbs as buds begin to develop, then little green sprouts pushing through the snow, winter aconite bursting forth with bright yellow flowers and we will know that spring isn't far away.

And so the endless cycle of life renews itself. We as gardeners know that ongoing cycle of life intimately. We see it daily, seasonally, annually in our gardens – sometimes from the vantage point of our knees, sometimes from our windows. We also see it in our gardening community. We see it in the death of Olive Felio, a Past Director and a wonderful, welcoming, and talented woman and in the births of ever so many children and grandchildren.

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

DEC SUMMER CAMPS FOR YOUTH

Don't forget to apply for the NYS 2020 DEC Environmental Education Camp if you want to send a child to one of four educational camp sites run by the DEC. In addition to the educational experience, these camps also incorporate sportsmanship and outdoor fun. The deadline for 2020 is November 27, 2019. So far, no clubs have applied for this wonderful opportunity to send a child to this great experience. See page 16 for the application and more information.

(from pg. 1)

But as I mentioned at the conference, we have a closer perspective on the fragility of that cycle of life than many other people do. We see the decline of plants that used to flourish in our USDA Hardiness Zones. We see the rampant spread of invasive plants, crowding out both our cultivated plants and our indigenous ones. We read about a 29% decline in the bird population over the past 48 years – that’s almost 3 billion birds fewer than in 1970 – due to agricultural practices, pesticides, and habitat loss. And the loss isn’t just among threatened species, it includes species we find in our backyards, including sparrows, warblers, thrushes, and swallows.

We see the dangers of plastics throughout the environment, from single-use bags to drinking straws, from over-consumption of fuel to fast fashion.

As garden club members we are uniquely situated to do something about it. We can participate in events that showcase the difficulties in the environment. We can educate the public through our flower shows. We can take concrete actions and encourage the public to follow suit. We can take a close look at our own levels of plastic consumption and come up with creative ways to either avoid the use of so much plastic or to recycle what we do use. Individually, the changes we make to our plastic consumption may not change the world, but collectively, we can make a difference.

Similarly, the plants we put into our gardens affect that ongoing cycle of life. Planting pretty but foreign plants deprives the struggling insects and birds of the indigenous plants that they need to survive. Here we can make a more direct difference by planting indigenous plants to create a welcoming garden for birds or insects, helping those species struggling to find food.

Our speaker at the Spring Conference was Carolyn Summers, a landscape architect specializing in indigenous plants. I recommend her book, *Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East*. In addition to that book, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has a long history of advocating for the use of native plants in home gardens. They have several books on the subject, each of which is a valuable resource. The most recent one that I’m aware of is *Great Natives for Tough Places*. Two of their other titles are *Going Native* and *Wildflower Gardens*. One of my favorite sections of the Summers book is that it tells you which indigenous plant could replace one of the non-indigenous ones.

When we enter that quiet of winter after a busy holiday season, when your thoughts begin to turn to the garden of next year, when you’re sitting by the window looking at a winter wonderland while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee, consider where you could insert some indigenous plants into your garden. There are so many

beautiful options out there and, as an extra perk to the many types of insects, birds, and wildlife that you’ll be helping, many of these plants are lower in maintenance requirements.

I can tell you that I’ll be thinking about the replacement for an ash tree that succumbed to the ash borer. A pin oak is high on the list as it supports 600 species of various kinds. But there are several other options as well, including a maple or a hickory. Similarly, a group of yews in front of the front porch is slated to come out next year and I need to do my research as to what to put in their place.

I’m going to wrap up this note up with a poem that I read at the Fall Conference.

*"I found a seed
It grew a weed
The seed did sprout
A flower popped out
Bees and butterflies don't mind the weeds
Those weeds take care of all their needs."*

That poem was written by James “Dezi” Moore, age 5, while in Kindergarten. He is one of the young poets who entered the FGCNYS poetry contest under the auspices of the Athens Community Garden Club.

James is on to something. He has recognized at a young age that ‘weeds’ are necessary to our bees and butterflies. I hope that James never forgets that and that one day he will have a beautiful garden where bees and butterflies and wildlife enjoy native plants that were once considered weeds.

May you have a joyous, peaceful, and blessed holiday season.

Beth Walker

Director, District III



Our Annual Fall Conference was a great success!

AWARDS

Camille McComb & Stephanie Lally, Awards Co-chairmen



THIRD DISTRICT CITATIONS

Civic Concern:

Athens Community Garden Club—Youth Education
Garden Club of Kinderhook—Roadside Beautification
Garden Club of Kinderhook—Youth Education

Historic Preservation:

Garden Club of Kinderhook—Martin Van Buren Grave Site

Publicity—Newsletters:

Garden Club of Kinderhook
Germantown Garden Club

FGCNYS, INC. AWARDS (2018)

Club Standard Flower Show

Germantown Garden Club—Honorable Mention
Garden Club of Kinderhook—Honorable Mention

Press Book Award

Garden Club of Kinderhook—First Place, District III
Germantown Garden Club—First Place, District III

World Gardening Citation (2018)—Award 14b

Athens Community Garden Club
Clue Creek Garden Club
Clematis Garden Club
Germantown Garden Club
Glen Oaks Garden Club
Greenbush Garden Club
Greenport Garden Club
Guilderland Garden Club
H Gilbert Harlow Garden Club
Schoharie Valley Garden Club
The Shawangunk Garden Club

World Gardening Citation, Largest Contribution Club (2018) Award 14d1

The Shawangunk Garden Club

Special Recognition Award (2019)

Athens Community Garden Club

Standard Flower Show—Schedule Citation

Garden Club of Kinderhook—Large Club
Germantown Garden Club—Medium Club

Club Recognition Award

Athens Community Garden Club
Clematis Garden Club
The Garden Club of Kinderhook
Germantown Garden Club
Saugerties Society of Little Gardens
Schoharie Valley Garden Club
Schuylerville Garden Club
Shawangunk Garden Club

Yearbooks

Class 2.

New Paltz GC—First Place
Schoharie Valley GC—Commendation
Greenport GC—Commendation
Blue Creek GC—Commendation

Class 3.

Germantown GC—First Place
Athens Community GC—Commendation
Guilderland GC—Commendation

Class 4.

Garden Club of Kinderhook—First Place
Shawangunk GC—Commendation
Clematis GC—Commendation
Tioranda GC—Commendation

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB AWARDS

Standard Flower Show Achievement Award:

Garden Club of Kinderhook—Flower show,
“Playground Floral Fantasies”
Germantown GC—Flower Show, “Let’s Celebrate”

Mary Duff Walters Achievement

Garden Club of Kinderhook—Cookbook,
“Flourishing Futures”

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

GARDEN EXPLORERS

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

by Gay Doolittle

In August, Garden Explorers went on a field trip along the Route 5 corridor in Scotia. To start with was a first for all of us, a guided tour of BioSoil Farms to observe a vermiculture (worm castings) operation under the ownership of Chad Currin. BioSoil is an excellent biological soil amendment. But wait, that wasn't all. Worms aren't very photogenic, but hemp growing is! The other half (and more profitable) of BioSoil Farms is hemp growing for the CBD oil market. Here we are at a test garden just outside the indoor growing tents.

From there, we headed down to Riverside Maple Farm for a tour and taste test of all things maple syrupy. Their maple flavored soft serve was another first, and just delicious! My favorite, however, is their maple raspberry spread—nothing better to liven up a slab of fresh bread. Then again, maple flavored cotton candy was also a big winner with this gardening group.

Less than a mile away, back the way we came, is Wolf Hollow brewery. This is another locally owned and run business that gives tours, as well as lunch. There is a lovely, scenic pathway one can walk from the farm to the brewery, developing a thirst as one goes.

It was a beautiful day, we learned a lot, and, oh yes, gained a pound or two in the process.



Top: Club members at BioSoil Farms viewing the hemp crop.

Bottom: We enjoyed everything maple syrupy at Riverside Maple Farm including soft serve.

Blue Star Memorial Program

by Gary Barrack, District III Blue Star Memorial Chairman

The Blue Star Memorial Program has been in existence through the garden club movement for more than 70 years. National Garden Clubs, Inc. is committed to placing Blue Star Memorial Markers on our Highways and Byways in honor of our nation's Armed Forces. While the program originally started in 1944 to honor World War II veterans, it enlarged its mission in 1951 to include all men and women who had served, were serving or would serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

There are three types of Blue Star Markers:

- Highway Markers—Permitted on highways and highway rest areas. These large markers are 41" high by 45" wide affixed to an aluminum post. The current price for this marker is \$1530, which includes the post and shipping.
- Memorial Marker—Permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, Veteran Administration Medical Centers and any other approved civic location. Cost is also \$1530, same as above.



- By-Way Marker—Permitted in parks, historical sites, and other civic locations, price is \$510 and includes shipping.

Guidelines and procedures for ordering can be found on the National Garden Clubs Inc. website at www.gardenclubs.org. A marker is an excellent way to honor and pay tribute to our Armed Forces. It also provides great visibility for your respective clubs. In May 2019, my club, Tioronda Garden Club, dedicated a Blue Star Highway marker on NY Route 9D in Beacon, NY. It was a gift to the community on the occasion of the club's 90th Anniversary. As you can see, the marker is quite impressive. If you are interested, I will guide you through the process and in

coordination with our State Chairman, make this a very rewarding project for your club. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 845-831-9199 or by email at gbarrack1@gmail.com.

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

As part of the Germantown Garden Club's mission to "provide education and resources for its members", the club makes an annual book donation to the Germantown Library. With a nod to the present technology this year, the club donated three DVDs by Tobe Carey, an independent firm producer, director, and photographer. He recently presented a program to the club titled 'Sweet Violets.' Beside the film about the violet industry the Germantown Garden Club donated two other films, 'Rails to the Catskills' and 'The Catskill Mountain House and the World Around.'

On September 14 and 15, the club's 91st annual Flower Show show was held at the town's historic site and featured flower arrangements, educational displays, and horticultural specimens. The theme of the show was "The Wonderful World of Gardening." The design division featured fresh and dried flower arrangements in eight major groups. The horticulture specimens division included individual flowers, herbs, branches, and container-grown plants as well as vegetables. In the Horticulture Division the following ribbons were awarded: Horticulture Excellence, Mary Puskar; Arboreal Award, Irene Clum; 3 Awards of Merit, Mary Puskar and 2 Awards of Merit and a Sweepstakes Award to Mimi Brauch.

In the Design Division the following ribbons were awarded; Design Excellence and Designers Choice Award, Elizabeth Maher; Tri-Color award Mattie Gifford. There was a three way tie for the Sweepstakes Award ribbon. The ribbons went to Jennifer Flandreau, Gloria Cestero-Hurd and Mary Puskar. The club awards a prize for the People's Choice. Voting is done by the public.

The October meeting of the Germantown Garden Club was an entertaining and informative program by Columbia-Greene Cooperative Extension Master Gardener, Mary Ann Iaccino. Titled 'Houseplants for You and Me,' the program included common houseplants and how to care for them. A large focus was about some houseplants that may not be common to a gardener. These included unusual succulents, air plants, and alpine plants, which were fairly new ideas for consideration as a house plant. She defined and took the mystery out of what these categories were and how to include them in the home. Mary Ann also explained how to choose and care for the different varieties. The meeting included a lively question and answer period. Also on the agenda was nominations for club officers for 2020.

Residents and employees of Livingston Manor enjoyed making holiday centerpieces led by Garden Therapy Co-chairs Caroline DiMauro and Maureen Lockwood. With holiday music to set the scene (yes, a little early) and Caroline reading a holiday tale, fun was had by all.



President Fran Bufi presents 3 library DVD donations to the Germantown Library.



Top left: The winner of the Flower Show's 'Design Excellence Award' went to this exhibit that was featured in the Reflective Design Class. Top right: The winning Horticulture Excellence Award went to this Pumpkin.



Garden Therapy at Livingston Manor.

GREENPORT GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY
by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

Greenport Garden Club Awards Student Scholarships

Two student scholarships were awarded this fall at the club's Youth Awards Night Dinner on August 8. The Greenport Garden Club promotes fund raising activities throughout the year to support educational grants that raise environmental awareness that provides the award recipients with a rich educational experience.

The first award, the Greenport Garden Club/General Roll Leaf Manufacturing, Co., Inc. Scholarship Award was presented to Malaysia Singh of Hudson, a 2019 graduate of Hudson High School. The \$2,000 post-secondary education scholarship is awarded to a graduate of Hudson High School and is a combined scholarship given annually by the General Roll Leaf Manufacturing, Co., Inc. and the Greenport Garden Club. Selection of the award is based on the student's essay, post-secondary educational goals, and teacher recommendations. Malaysia attended the dinner with her family and proudly received recognition for her academic achievements and pursued goals. "We were moved by her essay and touched by her passion and eagerness to help our environment. She is an excellent model student who is concerned about the future of our planet," stated Cindy Teator, Greenport Garden Club Youth Scholarship Program award coordinator.

Malaysia is attending Columbia-Greene Community College for two years with plans to transfer to the College of St. Rose with a major in Environmental Studies and Policy. In high school she maintained a high honor roll, advanced regents diploma, and was active in intercollegiate activities such as the Girls Varsity Tennis Team, United Nations, and Environmental Club. Outside of the classroom she volunteered at the local animal shelter Animal Kind in Hudson.

Angela Rapp, president of the Greenport Garden Club stated "Peter, Tom, and Barbara Budelman of the General Roll Leaf Manufacturing Co., Inc. has generously pledged to support this program for seven consecutive years. We sincerely thank them for their contribution and commitment to education for students in our community." Attending the ceremony was Beth Walker, President of District III, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State.

The second award, the DEC Camp Colby Award, was given to Hudson Middle School student Angelina Strawn of Hudson who spent a week in the Adirondacks participating in educational programs ranging from group dynamics, field forest, pond exploration, inter connectedness of life on earth and the human impact on the environment.



Top left: The General Roll Leaf Scholarship Award presentation. Left to Right: Elizabeth Walker, Cindy Teator, Malaysia Singh, Peter Budelman, and Angela Rapp.

Top right: The DEC Camp Colby Award. Left to Right: Elizabeth Walker, Angelina Strawn, Karen Antonelli, and Angela Rapp.

Left: Our educational booth at the Columbia County Fair.

The DEC award is given annually by the Greenport Garden Club. The club sponsors a selected student to attend the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) camp, Camp Colby, in the Adirondack for one week. The DEC Award includes tuition and travel expenses for a selected junior high school student. Hudson Middle School Science teacher, Karen Antonelli, selects the qualified student based on his/her character and commitment to studies and Greenport Garden Club member Lynn Kowalski coordinates the DEC Award program. Present at the award was Elizabeth Walker, President of Dist. III FGCNYS.

Greenport Garden Club Exhibits at the Columbia County Fair

The Greenport Garden Club exhibited an educational booth at the Columbia County Fair that ran from August 28 to September 2. The theme, "Autumn in New York" reflected the beautiful colors that marks the tapestry of the Hudson Valley. The booth was adorned with Chrysanthemums, Hydrangeas, Swamp Grasses, Chinese Lanterns, Maroon Plum branches, all staged around corn stalks, hay bales, bird bath, baskets of miniature pumpkins, and a bounty of fall vegetables. Members of the Fair Committee that coordinated the educational booth were Angela Rapp, Kathy and Mike Bucholsky, Sue and Charlie Dillhoff, Cindy Teator, and Barbara Hapeman.

GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Merril-Lee Lenegar

The Capital Region is in full “Autumn Mode.” Colors abound, the air is crisp and everyone is busy. The Guilderland Garden Club is certainly included in the excitement.

In August, the Altamont Fair is one of the area’s most anticipated events. From August 13-17, members of the Club staffed an exhibit which provided information about our Club as well as the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. Club members were there to talk to visitors about our programs and activities. Visitors who stopped to talk to Club members were given a bouquet of fresh flowers. Several members of our Club entered the Flower, Arts, Crafts and Cooking Shows. Many proud members carried away ribbons at all levels. This is one of many outreach efforts that we have participated in over the years. Therefore, we’ve seen an increase in our membership. Since 2016 we have enjoyed the 10 new members that have joined us. New talent reenergizes everyone!

In September, our members were out and about the Guilderland Community. One of the events was held at the Guilderland Town Library. This event, “The Autumn Market Place,” showcased vendors, town businesses and community organizations. Here we spoke with several visitors who were unaware that there was a Guilderland Garden Club. Many stated an interest in visiting a meeting.

New officers were installed on September 9 during our meeting. They are: Merril-Lee Lenegar, President; Susan Cole and Jill Dergosits, co-first Vice Presidents; Michele Santoli, second Vice President; Donna Mohr and Christine Burdick, co-Secretaries; Kris Vogt, Treasurer. Marie Mueller, Past President, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS for District III, presided over the installation which was followed by a pot luck luncheon.

October 3 brought our members to the Western Turnpike Golf Course. We accepted an invitation to have an exhibit at the Guilderland Chamber of Commerce sponsored “Ladies Night Out” event. Visitors mingled with vendors, representatives from the varied businesses in Guilderland, as well as community organizations. Prizes and refreshments were made available to everyone. Once again, we made many people aware of our Club and some showed interest in membership.

October is when we start preparing for the Open House and Greens Show at the historic Mynderse-Frederick House in Guilderland Center (Route 146) on December 6, 7, and 8. We hope to see you there!

We hope everyone has a great Holiday Season!



Above left: Club members Donna Mohr, Barbara Turner, and Nancy Snyder ready to greet visitors at the Altamont Fair. Above right: Judi Golombiski at the Garden Club table at the Autumn Market Place. Left: New officers of the Guilderland Garden Club.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Cynthia Bogardus

A long-standing Garden Club of Kinderhook autumn tradition is the scholarship luncheon, where members come together for good food, camaraderie, and fund-raising. This year's event was held at Jackson's in Old Chatham. Co-chairs Marge Laurie and Sylvia Kelly were successful in keeping luncheon expenses low, to ensure that ample funds were raised in support of the scholarships awarded by the Club. Kudos to Marge and Sylvia, pictured in photo, for their hosting of a fun and successful event. One of the highlights was a presentation by member Carolyn Beveridge on planting and caring for Spring-blooming bulbs, in anticipation of the Club's May 2020 flower show "Springtime in Paris".



Several members of the Club joined in a tour of the medicinal gardens at the Churchtown Dairy. The tour was led by medicinal plant gardener and landscape manager Jean-David Derreumaux, who detailed the various herbs and plants grown at the site, as well as their healing and remedial uses. He touched on the concept of biodynamic farming as practiced at the dairy, which utilizes composting, crop rotation and an integration of animals and crops to create a sustainable, holistic environment. The group saw the distilling equipment used to extract essential oils from plants and herbs, which can then be used in foods and health products.



Sharon Wing of the Columbia County Historical Society spoke to members of the Garden Club of Kinderhook about the upcoming 34th annual Gallery of Wreaths. Ms. Wing outlined the history of the event, the process for submitting a wreath, ideas for wreath creativity, and the silent auction that funds the ability of every 4th grade student in the county to visit historic sites. The Gallery of Wreaths takes place at the Vanderpoel House of History in Kinderhook.

Top left: Marge Laurie and Sylvia Kelly at the scholarship luncheon. Top right: At the Churchtown Dairy—Mr. Derreumaux is shown explaining the distilling process to the group. Left: The Columbia Historical Society presentation to our club. Pictured are Sharon Wing, Carol Finklestein, and Sue Sweet.

Event Dates

November 29 and 30, December 1

Gallery of Wreaths

Vanderpoel House, Kinderhook

Open to Public Noon–4 pm

December 6 and 7

Winter Event—The Lights of Many Cultures

Martin Van Buren Historic Site, Kinderhook

Open to Public 12:30–3:30 pm

December 10

President's Holiday Tea

66 Broad Street, Kinderhook, 1–3 pm

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack

The club held its annual Autumn Wine Festival on October 10, 2019 at the St. Rocco Hall in Beacon. Over 80 guests attended for an evening of food, fun, and several wine offerings. This annual fund-raiser was a huge success. Proceeds help fund the club's many civic beautification projects. On November 7, the club will be the recipient of the "Beacon's of History Award" in honor of its 90th Anniversary. The Beacon Historical Society grants this award annually to an individual and organization that has made substantive contributions to the City of Beacon and helped to preserve both its history and sense of community. This formal fund-raiser cocktail party, which attracts over 200 business and community leaders will take place at the historic Roundhouse Conference and Event Center. President Gary Barrack will accept the award on behalf of the 64 members of the club.



2019 *Beacons of History!* 2019

Individual Honoree *Robert J. Murphy* & Organizational Honoree *Tioronda Garden Club*

November 7, 5:30 - 8:50 p.m. | Roundhouse Event Space
 Friend- and Fund-Raiser | R.S.V.P. Details on Reverse

Top: Club members gather at the Tioronda Garden Club table for the 2019 Spirit of Beacon Day Parade. Raffles, recruitment, and information on the club's activities were on display

Above left: The Beacon Historical Society and the Tioronda Garden Club sponsored a dedication ceremony to honor former Mayor Clara Lou Gould on the occasion of her 92nd Birthday. Clara Lou was President of the Club for many years and served as the FGCNYS District Director in 1977-1979. President Gary Barrack congratulated her for her many years of service.

Above right: The Autumn Wine Festival committee takes time to be recognized for their hard work in making the event a great success.

Below: The Tioronda Garden Club logo is featured on the invitations for the "Beacon's of History Award"

SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

Deborah W. Stack, President

The Shawangunk Garden Club had an ambitious year working together toward a common goal: our Harvest Festival held on October 5. Each month workshops were organized to create harvest and holiday crafts that reflected the Club's talents. Such crafts included quilted table runners, homemade bath salts, tea cup soap dishes, pine cone fire-starters, knit scarfs, tooth fairy pillows, handmade Fall and Christmas wreaths, tree ornaments, jellies, pickles, pies, breads and cakes. We even tied in our Yearbook's bird theme entitled "Wing It!" by making tea pot bird houses as well as bluebird houses. I want to thank Club Member Haze Gal for orchestrating this fabulous event!

The Harvest Festival was a wonderful experience where Club Members transformed Ellenville's historic 102-year old Hunt Memorial Building on Liberty Square into a Fall marketplace. We created vignettes with displays of gourmet food, bath and beauty, bedding and linens, birdhouses and feeders, a Christmas corner, vintage "White Elephant" items, and an incredible café. The day was with blue skies and a crisp feel in the air. Hundreds of visitors came, including former District III Director Gary Barrack and several neighboring Garden Clubs! The aroma of apple pie, hot gourmet coffee and cocoa filled the air. Shoppers purchased our crafts for holiday gifts and decorations for their homes while their children played our bean bag toss and football games on the front lawn. We also offered free kids crafts. The children created a milk carton bird feeder and ladybug to take home.

Our Club theme this year centered around native birds—how to attract them to our backyard feeders, their habits, their habitats, and how they rear their nestlings. We held two "Open to the Public Club Meetings" at the Ellenville Public Library and Museum. In April, we invited Polly Law from Catskill Native Nursery in Kerhonkson who taught us that in order to attract native birds, first we must plant native plants that attract native insects. The birds will come and feed on the insects. In September, we invited Sullivan County Audubon Society member Rick Bunting who is known as "The Roadside Naturalist" from Bainbridge, NY. He suggested that in the warm months we create water gardens in our backyards to provide habitats for birds or include bird baths among our flower gardens. In the colder months he recommended we provide a food source for migrating birds and for those who stay all winter. Any feeder works well, but Rick likes platform feeders for bird watching. He uses both birdseed with sunflower seeds and dog food (small kibble with grain). Suet in suet feeders is important as it provides birds with the fat they need to keep warm.



Our display of goods at the Fall Marketplace.

In May, Carolyn Summers, author and horticulturist, gave the club a tour of Flying Trillium Gardens and Preserve in Neversink, NY. She showed us her water gardens, wildflower meadows and landscape designs that attract all kinds of fauna and birds. In July we had a garden tour and dinner picnic at the charming home of Club Member Haze Gal and learned the challenges of gardening on top of a rocky mountain! We loved her bicycle wheel green bean climber!

During the year the club is responsible for planting and maintaining various gardens throughout Ellenville and the surrounding communities. Big projects included planting flowers in large sidewalk planters, overhauling and replanting the "Boy with the Boot" fountain garden, Ellenville Regional Hospital Swing Bed Garden, and planting a tree at Liberty Square. Other activities included a Mothers Day Plant Sale, a Club Spring Luncheon, a Plant Exchange, a "Flower Power" float in the Fourth of July Parade, selling mums at the Blueberry Festival, our own Harvest Festival, a Pizza Party and attending the District III Fall Luncheon. We created centerpieces for three events: the District III Fall Luncheon, the Ellenville Regional Hospital Gala and the Noonday Club Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner. We will be participating in the Ellenville-Wawarsing Wassail in December by offering a Kissing Ball Workshop open to the public at the Library and by participating in the Holiday Market on Liberty Square. To end a very busy year, the Club will gather at my home for a Holiday Celebration.

Yes, 2019 will go down in history as an ambitious year, but also a year where Club Members came together, worked hard, enjoyed each other's company with laughter and camaraderie. I am very proud of the Shawangunk Garden Club – their talent, their energy, and their dedication truly amazes me!

HUGH PLAT GARDEN CLUB

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

by MaryAnn DeFonce

Autumn is perhaps the busiest time of year for Hugh Plat Garden Club. As the vibrant colors and enticing smells of fall burst forth along the Mohawk Valley we swing into high gear, enhancing the buildings of the Schenectady County Historical Society for their fall and winter events.

On September 25 we decorated two SCHS buildings for the Stockade walkabout. Most of the display was made up of items generously donated by our local garden centers. Afterward, we had a delightful lunch at the Water's Edge Lighthouse, which is the oldest existing building in Glenville. It was a private farmhouse for 105 years, then The River House, and then Little Richard's Tavern. Ownership of the site dates back to the early 1700's. Last year SGHS asked us to include the buildings at the Mabee Farm, along the banks of the Mohawk River, so September 27 found us decorating three buildings on that site also.

The end of November will find us busily decking the halls at the aforementioned sites for winter and for the SCHS Festival of Trees, December 7 through the 22. After our club Christmas party in early December we will hibernate for the months of January and February, resting up for SPRING!

Recently the Schenectady County Historical Society has increased the number of seasonal, family friendly events on their calendar. Exhibits, tours, trips, talks, and workshops fill their calendar. Events such as A Very Mabee Thanksgiving, American Girl Tea, A Very Mabee Christmas, Night of Lights and A Night at the Inn all peak one's interest! Our club's handiwork will be visible at events such as these during the season. Calendar event information is available at schenectadyhistorical.org.



Top right: The Schenectady County Historical Society building in the Stockade section of Schenectady. Left: the Mabee Farm House hearth. Above: another view of the Mabee Farm House.



THE ATHENS COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB Invites You to Attend Our Annual Holiday Luncheon and Charity Auction

Thursday, November 21st, 2019
12 Noon at Pegasus Restaurant
10855 State Route 9W
Coxsackie, NY

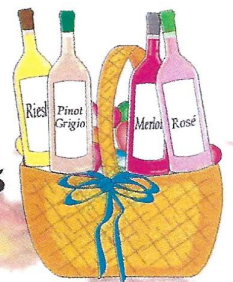


Arrive at Noon to preview the items
Participate in our silent and Chinese auctions
Stay for lunch
Then BID, BID, BID during our live auction!

Cost for luncheon \$25 per person, plus cash bar.
For reservations and further information call
(518) 444 8279. Reservation required
by November 13th.



All proceeds benefit the
beautification and education efforts
of the Athens Community
Garden Club



GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Carole Garvar, Chair

There are two major fund-raising events planned for November and December 2019

Athens Community Garden Club

Annual Holiday Luncheon and Auction

November 21, 2019, Noon, arrive at 11:30 AM for preview

Pegasus Restaurant, 10885 Rt. 9W, Coxsackie, NY

Contact Chair Laura Erwig at 518-444-8279 for reservations and menu choice

Schoharie Valley Garden Club

Holiday Luncheon and Boutique "A Homespun Christmas"

December 4, 2019, Noon to 4 PM

Sablewood at Highview Springs Farm

5038 Rt. 30, Schoharie, NY

Contact Chair Agnes Rapoli @518-872-050 for reservations

Clematis Garden Club

Look forward to attending the club's fabulous Spring Gardening Social Annual event—open to all, which features well-known speakers, a delightful luncheon, and silent auction

No reservations necessary. Location to be announced

Clematis and Schoharie Valley Clubs do not meet in 2020 until April when regular scheduled meetings will resume. Athens Community Garden Club continues meeting in 2020 January or February and each month throughout the year.

THE KING OF BUTTERFLIES

by Jean H. Horn, District III Wildflower Chair

Monarch Butterflies are the most beautiful of the butterflies say many people. This is why they are called the 'King of Butterflies' and is where the title 'Monarch' comes from.

The monarch butterfly goes through four separate stages during its life cycle and through four generations in one year! The life cycles are the egg, the larvae (caterpillar), the pupa (chrysalis), and the adult butterfly. These stages give us four different butterflies throughout the year and then they start over.

The butterfly goes into hibernation during late winter in Mexico, California, or Texas (after flying all the way there).

After coming out of hibernation in February and March and mating, the adult butterfly begins flying North looking for Milkweed, the only plant that they will lay eggs on.

The eggs hatch into baby caterpillars in about a week and eats and grows for two weeks. It then attaches and begins metamorphosis by forming a chrysalis. In 10 days an adult butterfly will emerge. Most butterflies will continue to fly north feeding on flowers and last two to six weeks before laying eggs on Milkweed and dying.

The second generation of Monarchs is then hatched out in May and June, going through the same four stages, still flying North. The third generation is hatched out in July and August going through the same four stages.



The fourth generation is different. It is hatched in September and October and goes through the same four stages except that the beautiful adult butterfly does not die after two to six weeks like the others. Instead this lucky butterfly migrates thousands of miles to warmer climates and will live for six to eight months in the sunshine until it is time to begin the process all over again. It is estimated that over 100,000,000 monarch butterflies fly south every year.

You can see how important it is to keep Milkweed growing. Next year is the 80th year of the Greenville Clematis Garden Club. We are celebrating by honoring butterflies, birds, and bees. Our Clematis Garden Club is sharing milkweed seeds with club members, friends, and relatives. After a few hard frosts, the seeds are simply dropped to the ground in November, stepped on and left to be cold stratified throughout the winter to hopefully grow in the spring for beautiful Monarch butterflies to continue to feed on, lay eggs on, and to grow and fly in our gardens and fields.

Please watch for additional ideas in the Third District Newsletter to propagate Milkweed for our butterflies.

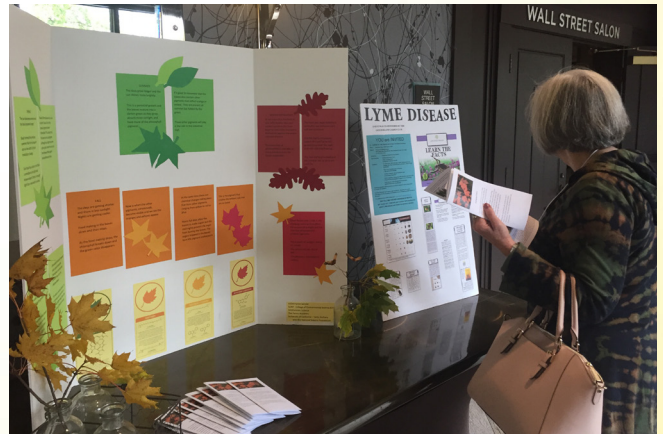


FALL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Autumn Harvest

OCTOBER 17, 2019

On October 17, members attended the Third District Fall Meeting at the Best Western Plus in Kingston. We enjoyed a great program from Christopher Grigas who gave a demonstration on "Styling Cut Flowers for the Home." Participants took advantage of the opportunity to try to win one of the many raffle baskets provided by Greene and Schoharie Garden Clubs and individual members, as well as shop the Ways and Means provided by Albany and Columbia County Garden Clubs and Vendors. Many awards were presented including Citations from the Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Clubs' Calendar 2019–2020

November 21

Athens Community Garden Club
Annual Holiday Luncheon and Charity Auction
Pegasus Restaurant, 10855 Route 9W, Coxsackie

November 29–December 1

Gallery of Wreaths
Vanderpoel House, Kinderhook, Noon–4 pm

December 4

Schoharie Valley Garden Club
Holiday Lunch and Boutique “A Homespun Christmas”
Sablewood at Highview Springs Farm, 5038 Rt. 30,
Schoharie, NY

December 6–7

Winter Event—*The Lights of Many Cultures*
Martin Van Buren Historic Site, Kinderhook
Open to Public 12:30–3:30 pm

December 6–8

Guilderland Garden Club's Annual Open House Mynderse-Frederick House
Co-sponsored with the Guilderland Historical Society
December 6, 4–8 pm; December 7–8, 1–5 pm

December 7–8

Germantown Garden Club's Holiday Open House
December 7, 10 am–3 pm; December 8 1–3 pm
Palatine Parsonage, 52 Maple Ave., Germantown

December 10

Garden Club of Kinderhook President's Holiday Tea
66 Broad Street, Kinderhook, 1–3 pm

April 16, 2020

Third District Spring Meeting “Spring Fling”
Polish Community Center
22 Washington Ave. Ext.
Albany, NY

Green Tomato Pickles

by Karin Janson, Editor, *The Digest*

I had a great crop of tomatoes in my garden this year, but many were a little late to get to the ripe stage. And now after our first major frost, I am faced with so many green ones. What to do? This bounty of unripened fruit makes me look back to that great movie so many years ago. I have to confess that I don't really like Fried Green Tomatoes. But I do love pickles. And green tomatoes make perfect pickles. Here is my recipe.

Ingredients:

Green tomatoes, cut into quarters, however many can fit into a 1 quart jar
1 1/2 cups water
3 tablespoons white vinegar or apple cider vinegar
3 tablespoons kosher or pickling salt*
2 teaspoons black peppercorns
5 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
6 large sprigs fresh dill
1 bay leaf
(optional) 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes, or more/less to taste



Directions:

Add the water, vinegar, salt, peppercorns, garlic, dill and bay leaf to a large (1-quart) jar — or divide the mixture evenly between two small (1-pint) jars — and stir to combine.

Add the tomatoes to the jar(s). Then place the lids on the jar(s), and shake to combine.

Refrigerate ideally for at least 2 days before eating, although you can totally dive in before that time.

*Do not use iodized table salt for this recipe.

Note: Feel free to stir in some sweetener (honey, sugar, etc.) if you'd like sweeter pickles.

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

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

Material for *The Digest* should be sent to Karin Janson via email at kjanson@aol.com.

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





Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.
**Application for a Scholarship to the
New York State 2020 DEC Environmental Education Camp**

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. is offering **one scholarship from each District to attend a one week** environmental educational camp during the summer of 2020. One alternate will also be chosen to attend in the event the winner is unable to attend. There are four educational camp sites throughout New York State run by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. In addition to the educational experience, these camps also incorporate sportsmanship, education and outdoor fun. There are usually seven weeklong camp sessions to choose from—Sunday to Friday. Camper ages are 11 to 13 years old and 14 to 17 years old. Applicants must be 11 years of age by December 1, 2020. Parents must provide transportation to and from the camp. For additional information, go to **www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html**

If you are interested, please attach to this application a paragraph, either written or typed, explaining why you would like to attend an environmental educational camp. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar will be considered in the final decision.

Scholarship Applications must be submitted to the Elizabeth Walker, District Director, by November 27. The Winners' and Alternates' applications will then be sent to:
Dorothy Grant, 140 Deerfield Drive, Canandaigua 14424, by, **November 30, 2019**

Student's Name: (Please print) _____

Parent's Name: (Please print) _____

Address: _____

Phone Number _____ **Student's birthdate** _____

Parent's Signature _____