

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



NOVEMBER 2023

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From the Director



As the 2023 Garden Club year comes to an end, I would like to express my gratitude to our Executive Board, County and Committee Chairmen, Club Presidents and our members for your support and commitment to our District and your respective clubs. Thank you for a job well done!

Our Third District Fall meeting in Kingston on October 19 was a huge success with attendance back to pre-pandemic levels. A total of 89 members gathered for an informative meeting, presentation of awards, and a relaxing

lunch. Following lunch, floral designer, horticulturist and holiday décor expert Douglas Koch created many exquisite floral arrangements which were auctioned off at the end of the program.

The County Chairmen reports presented at the meeting indicate that our clubs are actively engaged in conducting world-class Flower Shows, Civic Beautification Projects, Scholarship Programs, Youth Outreach and Historic Preservation projects to name a few. In these tough economic times, many clubs are engaged in food bank drives, visiting nursing homes, and helping those in need. Clubs also reported an increase in membership during the past year. Please keep up the good work. The recruitment and retention of new members is of critical importance if we are to survive and remain relevant in an ever-changing world. So please ask a friend, a neighbor or relative, or anyone who has a love of gardening to join your club and be a part of this amazing organization.

Next year, the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of its founding. Our District will be host to this celebration at the Annual State Meeting to be held on May 6 and 7, 2024, at the Desmond Crown Plaza Hotel in Albany. It is something to look forward to as we approach the new year giving us an opportunity to participate in the festivities close to home. Also, our Spring District meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024. Details to follow in the February issue of the Digest. Please save the date for these upcoming events.

As Thanksgiving and the holidays fast approach, let us pause and reflect, taking time to give thanks for our many blessings; for the gift of family and friends; for the beauty that garden clubs create; and for the privilege of living in our great country. Best wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

Take care,
Gary Barrack, Director

CLUBS IN DISTRICT III

District Three Clubs, by County

Albany: Blue Creek, Guilderland, Helderview

Columbia: Germantown

Dutchess: Tioronda

Greene-Schoharie: Athens
Community, Clematis, Schoharie Valley

Rensselaer: Greenbush

Schenectady: The Garden Explorers,
Country Garden Club of Clifton Park

Ulster: Community Garden Club of
Marlborough on Hudson, New Paltz,
Saugerties Society of Little Gardens,
Shawangunk, Ulster



FALL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Fallin' in Love with the Holidays

OCTOBER 19, 2023

On October 19, 2023, 91 members attended the Third District Fall Meeting at the Best Western Plus in Kingston. Participants took advantage of the opportunity to try to win one of the many raffle baskets provided by the Ulster County Garden Clubs plus individual members and clubs who helped provide so many great baskets. Something new this year was a 50/50 Raffle, ticket sales were provided by Albany and Rensselaer Garden Clubs. Community Garden Club of Marlborough made the beautiful table arrangements. Many awards were presented including Citations from the Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc. The guest speaker was Douglas Koch of Seasonal and Holiday Floral Designs. Douglas is a floral designer, horticulturist and holiday decor expert. Using flowers, plants, lighting textiles, and other accessories, his horticultural designs transform space into botanical wonderlands.



GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

Germantown Garden Club Holds Flower Show

For over 90 years the Germantown Garden Club has held an annual Flower Show. The annual show consists of a design division, a horticulture division, an educational exhibit and a botanical arts division (photography).

The club follows the National Garden Clubs guidelines and rules for a Standard Flower Show which includes 6 design classes with a total of 24 designs. The show featured 24 floral arrangements, 2 educational exhibits, 99 horticultural specimens and photographs. The theme for the show was "And a Thing Called Love." The design division featured fresh and dried flower arrangements in six major groups. The horticulture specimens division included individual flowers, herbs, branches and container grown plants. The show was judged by accredited flower show judges, open to the public and admission was free.

Germantown Garden Club Recognized

Culminating a year of work, the Germantown Garden Club was recognized by receiving six awards. The awards were presented at the District Three Fall Meeting of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. at the Best Western in Kingston, NY. There are three levels of awards, the District, the State, and Nationally. From District Three a FIRST PLACE for the GGC 2023 Yearbook, "Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees." Four were from the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.; FIRST PLACE for the 2022 Flower Show Schedule, "Nature's Best," SECOND PLACE for the Flower Show "Nature's Best," 2022 State Club Recognition Award, and a State Citation for the club's contributions to the National Garden Club's World Gardening Project. From National Garden Club's Inc., a CERTIFICATE OF MERIT and Purple Ribbon for the 2022 Club Standard Flower Show "Nature's Best."

Germantown Hosts Talk on "The Indoor Garden"

The program of the October meeting of the Germantown Garden Club was a talk on the "Indoor Garden." The presenter was Garden Club Member and Master Gardener Linda Levitt of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties. Among her credentials is an advanced

certification in horticulture and landscape design from Berkshire Community College and Berkshire Botanical Garden. She began her talk with the motto 'Right Place/ Right Plant.' Her talk covered the main requirements of growing healthy houseplants, namely light, water, temperature, air/humidity, nutrients/fertilizer, continuing care, and what to do when something goes wrong. She also touched on which indoor plants can help to reduce air pollution in the home.



Above, the club's Flower Show "And a Thing Called Love."

Below, the club received recognition at the Fall District Meeting. Members pictured left to right: Melanie Nelson, Karin Janson, Fran Bufi, Irene Clum, and Maureen Lockwood.

GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by John Haluska, Second Vice President

The club had a display at the Altamont Fair. A lot of people signed up to get more information regarding our club. We have two new members. One of our newer member Joan McKeon has really brought out the need to be concerned about native plants and insects to the club

On October 16, the club had presentation by Ms. Karen Roberts Mort M.S. The presentation was made at the Albany Cornell Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville. She presented a program on "Cooking with Love for the Planet" In her presentation Ms. Mort talked about such delights as Beet and Orange Salad, Stem Soup, and Carrot Pesto. Learn to love your leftovers was emphasized.

Members of the Guilderland Garden Club worked with the Guilderland Food Pantry to prepare table arrangements for fund raising purposes.

Club members worked at the Mynderse-Frederick House on November 6. Canna Lily roots were dug up and stored for the winter. Both the Guilderland Garden Club and the Guilderland Historical Society avail themselves of this premise.

Our Holiday Sale will be held on December 2, 10 am - 5 pm at the Mynderse-Frederick House. The Helderview Garden Club will be joining us. We will have wreaths, ornaments, and baked goods for sale. Refreshments will also be available.



Left to right: Sandy Hill, Sandy Mason, and Maureen McNamara finished up at the Mynderse-Frederick House.

Above: "Cooking with Love for the Planet" presentation with Karen Roberts Mort.

Below: Making table arrangements for the Guilderland Food Panty. Left to right: Natalie Green, food pantry volunteer and Guilderland Garden Club members Judi Golumbiski, Linda Walter, Ann Trolenberg, and Linda Miller.

COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB OF MARLBOROUGH ON HUDSON

ALBANY COUNTY

by Linda Fogerty, Treasurer

The Community Garden Club of Marlborough on Hudson worked hard beginning in June and throughout the Summer to plant and maintain the gardens at The Desmond House in the town of Newburgh. This was accomplished with our Plant America Grant received from NGC, Inc.

At our September meeting we enjoyed a delicious pot luck luncheon. Members also brought in a bloom, stem, or plant with vases provided for display. We are fortunate to have Lynne Arnold, former State President, in our club. Lynne spoke about what a formal horticulture show would look like.

November meeting will showcase a dried florals workshop. We will end the calendar year with our annual holiday luncheon at a restaurant on the beautiful Hudson River.

Happy Holidays to all!



Members learn about horticulture from member Lynne Arnold.

NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Margaret McDowell, President

We have enjoyed regrouping after a busy Summer Season. Our two Community Gardens are thriving thanks to our members' involvement and the generous amount of rain we had. The gardens are continuing to look healthy and colorful well into this Fall Season.

We twice attempted to visit the Mohonk Mountain House Gardens in September, unfortunately we were rained out both times. The members were invited to visit on their own in small groups. Those who visited were in for a treat. The Garden Theme was fairy tales and classic children's story books. It was very creative and fun.

In October we returned to the Mohonk Mtn. property for a tour and talk about the Mohonk Preserve Research Center. The Daniel Smiley Research Center has been producing weather and environmental data of the area for over 60 years. We were given a description of all the work and information collected by the Center. The Center's Director Megan Napoli

shared this information and additionally we received a look at various animal, insect and plant collections available at the Center. For all of us it greatly expanded our knowledge of what is available so close to home.

Five of our members attended the District 3 Fall Meeting, we all enjoyed the wonderful floral designs created. Our member, Kathy Rivera contributed a Poster Presentation on the Spotted Lantern Fly.

For November we will be shown how to assembly a Holiday Kissing Ball. Dot Clarmont, a retired florist from Hyde Park will demonstrate the Holiday Craft, friends and guests will be encouraged to attend. Finally for December we will have our Holiday Party Pot Luck, we'll have a gift exchange and members will bring a food pantry item as well. We hope we can have some Holiday entertainment as well.

Wishing everyone a Happy Safe Holiday and New Year as well.

SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Sophia Browne

Our adventures and memories continued into June with our plant exchange at Lippman Park. Our club luncheon took place in Wurtsboro. A unique feeling of friendship and interest with our members.

In July, we had an elegant “tea” meeting in an English style cottage (1910) and toured the surrounding grounds.

Not forgetting our village duties, we had many clean up and weeding days during the summer months depending upon our erratic weather. Besides the village, our members take care and water plants at the Ellenville Regional Hospital, contribute to local food pantries, give school scholarships, “adopt a Highway” and the Dig Deep Navajo Indian Water Project.

We participated in the Blueberry Festival in Ellenville in August. We were the first two tents. We sold Black Eyed Susans, fresh flower bouquets, hand-made items this year. We answered questions. A good fund raiser.

We finally were able to visit Stonecrop Gardens in September. There were several day changes due to the hot weather. Quite a treat to have a guided tour through the grounds.

In August, we had a scarecrow workshop. 25 were created from wood, old clothes, hay, plastic filler. They were distributed throughout the village the end of September just in time for the Harvest Festival on October 6.

This festival was a major commitment by our chairman consisting of planning, workshops, supplies, and leadership. Squeezed in between was a workshop for 30 centerpieces for the ERH Foundation Gala. Our members are very creative.

October’s meeting was the opening of our club’s art show at the Ellenville Library Art Gallery. “Art in the Garden” was our theme. 30 entries (different mediums) were exhibited. Talented Group.

November’s Meeting will include our annual reports and a chili contest. The chili will definitely keep us alert.

In November, we decorate the Library Museum for the Holidays

December’s Christmas party will take place in a 19th century farm house. Wonderful atmosphere.

Our members were very excited to receive “Class 4 /First Place Year Books 2023” this year at the Third District Fall Meeting.

Nice ending to a great year.



Top left: Cleanup crew at the Boy with the Boot area at Liberty Square in Ellenville. Bottom left: Members at the Blueberry Festival. Top: The Harvest Festival plant areas as well as our art offerings in October in Ellenville. Top right: Our guided tour of Stonecrop Gardens. Bottom right: Members at the Third District Meeting.



SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Susan Grupinski

September: We enjoyed a Raised Bed workshop by Berni Dooley at Cobleskill Cooperative Ext. Offices, Cobleskill. We ended the perfect day with a lovely lunch at The Bull's Head Restaurant.

Our Club had such a fun day at our Garage Sale, Plant and Bake Sale on September 9th.

October: We took a trip to The Garden Bug over in Amsterdam and had a fun day with pumpkins, mums, cider and donuts to munch on, and lots of shopping for fall!

November 1st: Our elves will be getting ready for "Christmas" with Our Festival of Trees ornament workshop.

December 5th: we will merrily be making our centerpieces for our Holiday Luncheon.

December 6th: Holiday luncheon & Boutique: A Berry Merry Christmas! Later in the week: Festival of Trees—Tree Decorating at the NYS Power Authority, Blenheim

2024: Our Club meets the first Wednesday of each month starting in March with our Annual Meeting Covered Dish Luncheon, election of officers, and program development.

April: Spring/Easter Centerpiece workshop, to be taught by our very own Betty Karlau. Later in the month we will participate in the Schoharie Antique Show.

May: Wreath workshop



Left: Members at The Garden Bug in Amsterdam.

Top: Visiting Susan Telfers Gardens, Schoharie Valley Garden Club, Nancy, Helen, Susan, Agnes, Anne, and Betty.

Middle left: Plantings by Jody Pugh and Nancy Gunther. Middle right: Our Garage Sale, Plant, and Bake Sale.

Bottom: Our ornaments for Festival of Trees at the Power Authority, Blenheim, NY.

“A Berry Merry Christmas”



Schoharie Valley Garden Club Annual Holiday Luncheon & Boutique!

Wednesday, December 6th, 2023

“Sablewood” at Highview Springs Farm

5038 State Route 30, Schoharie, New York, www.TheSablewood.com

(Handicap drop off – please follow circular driveway to side door on right)



10:45 - Noon: Registration & Shopping

12 Noon: Luncheon catered by Bull's Head Inn of Cobleskill

(Chicken Florentine, wild rice pilaf, green beans or squash medley, strawberry shortcake)

1:30: Program – Holiday “Farmhouse Floral Design” by Jess Beretz

Start Your Christmas Shopping Early at our Holiday Boutique!

In addition to our traditional “Benefit” and “Ways & Means” tables, we welcome the following vendors:

**Shops Open
10:45
(Bring Shopping Bag)**

Ann Hein:	Bird and Bee Homes & Hand Sewn Items
Cheryl Jones:	“Too Cool Beads” - Handcrafted Bead & Stone Jewelry
Denise Kelly:	“Create A Way” - Custom Stained Glass & Knitted Items
Deborah LaBombard:	Stunning Fashions, Handbags and Accessories
Michelle Schaefer:	“Lillian Marie Soaps ‘N’ More”
Colleen Treiling:	“Ribbon Trees and Such”
Susan Wissick:	“Fiber Art and Stitchery” - Quilts, alpaca products and more



Reservation & Payment DUE by Friday, December 1, 2023

\$40 payable to: Schoharie Valley Garden Club

Complete this form & mail with payment to: Anne Bielawski, 103 Strawberry Lane, Schoharie, NY 12157 (Phone: 518-295-8809)

All seating reserved. If coming in a group of 2 or more & plan to sit together you must register together:

Group Leader _____ Phone: _____ How many? _____ Amount Enclosed _____

All Names in Group _____

If coming as an individual:

Name _____ Phone: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack, County Chairman

The Tioronda Garden Club recently made a \$1,000 donation to local veteran's groups who are in the process of re-landscaping and refurbishing the exterior of the Veteran's Memorial Building on Main St. Accepting the donation from President Geraldine Fuller at the club's September meeting was John MacEnroe who thanked the club for their generous support. The funds will be used specifically for the outdoor landscaping project now in process.

The club held an Autumn Cocktail Party on November 8. Wine, cheese, and appetizers were served at the historic 1872 Howland Center designed by famed architect Richard Morris Hunt. Over 50 guests attended with musical entertainment provided by club member Diana Ferrara, who has appeared in many Broadway productions. The club used the occasion to honor longtime club member Norman MacLeod for his 35 plus years of service as Civic Beautification Chairman.

Later in the month, club members will decorate the Howland Center and the Historic Madam Brett Homestead for the Christmas holidays. They will also prepare the wreaths for Main Street which the Highway Department will install and light a few days prior to Thanksgiving. The December meeting will feature the Annual Santa's Holiday Decorating Workshop, followed by the election of officers for the 2024-2025 Garden Club year. After a brief hiatus, the club returns to its regular schedule in March as it begins its 95th year of "Beautifying Beacon."

Top: President Geraldine Fuller presents a donation for the Veterans Building landscaping project to Major John MacEnroe, American Legion, Beacon Post 203. To their right are club members Robert Haight and Norman MacLeod, both veterans and members of the American Legion.

Center: Members enjoying an evening of wine, good food, friendship, and musical entertainment. A huge success!

Below Left: President Geraldine Fuller pins a boutonniere on honoree Norman MacLeod. Below right: District Director Gary Barrack with members of his club.



GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE

by Carol Garver,



Our G/S Clubs would like to extend our wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season to our fellow garden club members

Athens Community Garden Club

The club's Annual Holiday Luncheon and Auction took place on November 16th at Pegasus Restaurant, Route 9W Cossackie. It featured a Silent Auction and a Holiday Auction of home baked goods, custom-designed gift baskets, hand crafted items, and more that followed lunch. This is the club's annual major fund raiser.

The club meets on the third Thursday of each month. On December 14th, members will create pine cone mini-Christmas Trees.

In January 2024 will feature a program on Wildflowers by Jeremy Taylor from the DEC.

The March 2024 meeting will feature a speaker from Cornell Cooperative Extension who will present a program on house plants.

In April 2024 backyard bee keeper Heather Di Nardo will speak on bees.

Clematis Garden Club

On November 17th the club's annual Holiday Luncheon was held at Pasta and Grill in Middleburgh. Members brought photographs and other items to share. A collection of Socks for Seniors will be donated to nursing homes.

On December 15th Christmas Traditions at the Bronck House will be presented by Bob Hallock president of the Greene County Historical Society.

Incoming officers for 2024 will be installed. The club will resume meetings in April 2024.

The Clubs Annual Plant and White Elephant Sale will take place in June 2024, at the GNH Plaza in Greeneville. This is open to the public.

Schoharie Valley Garden Club

The November meeting featured a Festival of Trees ornament workshop.

The club's December 5 meeting will feature a Christmas luncheon centerpiece workshop and flower arrangements. The Festival of Trees decorating will take place at the NYS Power Authority, Blenheim.

On December 6 the club's Holiday Luncheon and Boutique "A Berry Merry Christmas." will take place from Noon to 4 PM, Sablewood at Highview Springs Farm, 5038 Route 20, Schoharie, NY. Call Sue Grupinski at 518 827-7014 for reservations.

The club does not meet in January and February. On March 6, 2024 the annual meeting covered dish luncheon and election of officers will take place.

Clubs' Calendar 2023-24

December 2-3, 2023

Germantown Garden Club Christmas Market
The First Reformed Church Parsonage
52 Maple Avenue, Germantown, NY

December 6, 2023

*Schoharie Valley Garden Club's
Annual Luncheon and Boutique*
A Berry Merry Christmas!
Sablewood Highview Farms
Schoharie, NY

December 2, 2023

Guilderland Garden Club Holiday Sale
Mynderse-Fredrick House
Guilderland, NY

April 18, 2024

Third District Spring Meeting
Details to follow.

May 6-7, 2024

Annual State Meeting
Desmond Crown Plaza
Albany, NY

PARTING SHOT



From the Schwangunk Garden Club: A lineup of the 25 scarecrows, created for the Harvest Festival, in the workshop area. Colorful and innovative.

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). The February Digest only features the Spring District Meeting.

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.

