

## Director's Message

Happy 2012!!!! This Director is wishing you all a healthy, happy and active new year with lots of participation in garden club and District III activities.

Our Fall District Meeting, "Autumn Magic," featuring Carl Lemanski, was well received, and hopefully the Spring Meeting, "Spring Splendor," will be just as inspiring. Julie Lapham will be our designer/presenter. She was one of the six American demonstrators at the Wafa show in Boston. More information on the designer, venue and doings will be forthcoming. You will not be disappointed.

As you probably recall, I extended an invitation to all members in District III, to come for tea and see my decorated tree. Well, I was very pleased with the response. Members came from Country Garden Club of Clifton Park, Catskill, Athens, Clematis, Greenbush, Hillside Acres, Guilderland, New Paltz, Shawangunk, and of course my own Kinderhook club. What a charming, friendly group of people, and I thank them all for coming at such a busy time of the year. Olive Felio and Joan Giordano from the Greenbush Garden Club were a tremendous help to me. They sliced a ham and a chicken, cut up cakes, arranged cookies and boiled water for tea. They washed cups and saucers and left the kitchen clean and organized. What a fabulous pair!

Now here we are in 2012 and we have another year to educate and motivate our

club members and people in their communities. Please check your calendar and notice the open board meeting on March 15. Anyone interested in coming is welcome, but you must let this Director know because I will provide a simple lunch for all comers. Bring some great suggestions with you. We'll set some dates for workshops, which will be planned accordingly.

We mustn't miss the opportunity to attend the National Garden Clubs' Convention, "Explore the Wonders," when it is practically under our noses. Plan on it. It will be in Buffalo at the Adam's Mark Hotel on May 17, 18 & 19. The State of Ohio is managing the flower show, in which there will be arrangements from every state. Convention information was compiled by me and was given to club presidents who attended the Fall District Meeting and mailed to those who could not attend. It was a 14-page packet

*Continued on page 2*



Enjoying the Director's Tea on Saturday, December 17 are: (standing), Linda Gross, Margaret Gross, Jeanne Weissman, Carole Garvar, Camille McComb, Joan Giordano, Pat Dorsey and Jackie Divirgilio and (seated) hostess Reneta Benenati, Olive Felio, Maureen Castlegrand and Cathy Fruhauf.

*continued from page 1*

with all the pertinent information. Please present it at your next meeting if you haven't done so.

In addition to our "Spring Splendor," this Director is planning a repeat of last year's successful trip to the Newport Flower Show on Friday, June 22. This year the theme is Latin: "Salsa." Plan to reserve early. More detailed information will be available at the March meeting and also in April.

This Director requests your new yearbooks for this year (I hope to return last year's) and also the Change of Officers form. I require these for State board meeting reports.

If you have any special activities such as flower shows, garden tours, lectures, open houses, etc., please bring your notices (flyers) to the Spring Meeting at Birch Hill.

Last but not least, thank you for inviting me to your holiday luncheons. I was honored to install the officers of the Saugerties Society of Little Gardens.

Together, members from all the clubs in District III will have an exciting, fun-filled New Year - 2012!!!

Your Director,

## Rain Gardens

A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow depression that allows rain and snow melt to be collected and seep naturally into the ground. This helps recharge our groundwater supply and prevents a water quality problem called polluted runoff. Rain gardens are an important way to make our cities and neighborhoods into more attractive places to live while enhancing ecological health.



*Sandy Arlund studies the rain garden at the Jewish Community Center in New Paltz, one of the featured gardens for last years landscape design refresher.*

Having a rain garden in your landscape will reap much more than what is easily visible. During a heavy rainstorm much of the water quickly washes into streets from sidewalks, parking lots and lawns. It then goes down storm drains and eventually ends up in local water bodies. What you don't see washing away with the rain water are pollutants such as pesticides, fertilizers and petrochemicals, which may have accumulated on lawns, driveways and streets. A shallow depression in the lawn to capture stormwater allows this water to penetrate and move into the ground instead of running off and down into the storm drain. As the captured water slowly percolates into the ground, pollutants are filtered out, nutrients are used by the plants, and pesticides are broken down by microorganisms. Minimizing runoff into storm drains also results in decreased sediment, flooding and shoreline damage. Compared to a

*Newport Flower Show*
  
**"Salsa"**
  
 Friday, June 22, 2012
   
 The price - -\$75.00 - for this Latin theme show includes the round trip bus fare, admission to the flower show and dinner at the Old Country Buffet 1, Seekonk, Mass. (Tall ships will be in Newport then.) Please call Renee for more information and reservations at (518)758-7789.

conventional lawn, rain gardens allow 30% more water to soak into the ground. Because rain gardens are landscaped, they add beauty to a yard and create a habitat for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

### **Getting Started**

For best plant establishment and easier digging as a result of spring rains, start the actual construction in the spring. A summer start will work, but you may have to water the plants more often until they are established. The most important step is to observe your property during heavy rains, noting where puddles are forming, which areas are not draining well and where runoff is flowing, especially from the downspouts. Next proceed to pinpoint an exact site and decide of the size and depth required for success.

### **Site Selection**

Rain gardens can be located near downspouts to intercept only roof runoff, placed to collect water from lawn and roof or installed along driveways and sidewalks. The topography of your property and where runoff flows will help determine the exact site. Locate an area without existing ponding with a slope between 1% and 10%. The area should not be directly over a septic system. Good soil drainage is important. Determine how fast the soil drains at your site by doing a percolation test. Dig an 8-inch hole and fill with water to saturate soil. Once the water has drained, refill with water. If the hole completely drains within a few hours, you are assured the area is suitable. Full sun or partial sunlight will allow the widest selection of plants, but part shade with the proper plant material will also work

*From Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station Fact Sheet*

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

**Thursday, April 19, 2012**

Join us at Birch Hill, One Celebration Way, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY for our

**THIRD DISTRICT SPRING MEETING**

**“SPRINGTIME SPLENDOR”**

**AFTERNOON PROGRAM BY JULIE LAPHAM**

Julie is an accredited Master Judge of National Garden Clubs and a Garden Clubs of America approved Judge for Flower Arrangements. She has served as Garden Club Coordinator for the Boston Museum of Fine Arts' "Art in Bloom." Her designs have been published in several nationally know design books. She was one of the six American designers at the WAFAs show in Boston in 2011.

Registration forms are being sent to each District garden club president. For questions, please contact Marge Lansing, Chairman, at (518) 785-6312 or email at [grannymar2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:grannymar2@nycap.rr.com).

# Club News



President Pat Sama, Marcella Guertin and Sylvia Schaumann prepare flowers for garden therapy



Alexandra Paricella, Louise Bliss, Marcella Guertin, Marge Chippari, Sylvia Schaumann, Joanne Armstrong, President Sama with completed arrangements.

## Claverack

In October Claverack Garden Club members and guests traveled to Ward's Nursery and Garden Center in Great Barrington, MA for a seminar about forcing spring bulbs. After browsing the plants and bulbs the club adjourned to Four Brothers Restaurant in Hillsdale, NY for lunch.



Guest Ed Ginouves, Mary Ginouves, Louise Bliss, Marge Chippari at 4 Brothers Restaurant lunch.

In November Louise Bliss created a wreath with a bird theme for the Columbia County Historical Society's Gallery of Wreaths auction which earned \$50 for the Society. For garden therapy the club purchased flowers and prepared baskets with Oasis so 24 residents of Pine Haven Home and Rehabilitation Center could create arrangements for their dining room tables.

In December the annual Christmas party was held and officers for 2012 were elected. They will be installed in March. Six members contributed a total of \$145 to World Gardening's "Water for Sudan" program.

For 2012, plans are being developed for a demonstration of building a tabletop greenhouse, a wildflower program and planting in the town parks. The club will participate with other Columbia County garden clubs in National Garden Week and Columbia County Day.

*Marge Chippari*

## Clematis

In late January members met for tea at the home of president Mary Lou Nahas to review plans for the year, proof the yearbook and enjoy each others' company. Winter and Spring programs include:

**FEBRUARY 10 - Garden Gleanings**, presented by Joan Satterlee. Joan is a Landscape Design Master Consultant (National Garden Clubs, Inc.) and Master Gardener (Cornell Cooperative Extension). Her program dealt with climate change and local consequences, the importance and uses of knowing botanical nomenclature, some new plants, and a bit about landscape design.

**MARCH 11 - Seed Starting**, presented by Carol Boyd, Dolores Ferrer and Marieanne Schuessler. These three club members will lead a hands-on workshop on how to start seeds for your garden. Members should bring their own seeds to plant and share. The club will provide the planting medium and containers. Program will be at the Freehold Community Hall on Route 32 at 1 p.m.

**April 13 - Spring Tea and Lecture by Margaret Roach.** Margaret Roach, nationally known lecturer from Copake Falls, will speak on "Non-Stop Plants: Making a 365 Day Garden." Margaret is former editor-in-chief of *Martha Stewart Living* magazine and the author of several books, including, *And I Shall Find Some Peace Here*. Her blog is [awaytogarden.com](http://awaytogarden.com). The tea and lecture will be held at the Greenville Public Library Community Room. This event is open to public; reservations are not needed.

*Mary Lou Nahas*

## Germantown

Each January, the Germantown Garden Club puts together its program of meetings, projects, field trips and special events. Our process works like this: a team of members have an initial brainstorm meeting in late December to come up with ideas for a theme that can carry throughout the year to make the programs cohesive. And in early January, the team fleshes out these ideas to figure out what will work best. Our first club meeting of the year is in late February, so it is often a challenge to line up our speakers and plan our field trips so that our yearbook can be printed and delivered by this deadline.

With that said, the team decided that the theme for 2012 will be "Back to Basics: Gardening 101." We will be learning certain gardening skills that some of us might not know about, as well as programs that are refresher courses for the more advanced.

In our March meeting we will have a local florist give us a demo on "Home Flower Arranging 101." For April, we will have a talk about shrubs and in May we will have a talk and visit to The Climbery, one of the largest garden collection of clematis in the nation. Other meetings will cover daylilies, weeds and foraging, and how to dry flowers.

Please join us - our meetings are always open to the public. For more information, please call Fran Bufi, (518) 537-4868.

*Karin Janson*

### *Germantown, continued*

The Germantown Garden Club hosted a children's Gingerbread House Contest at its annual Holiday Open House on December 3-4, 2011 at the Old Parsonage in Germantown as part of the club's holiday celebrations for the community. Children under 12 created edible masterpieces in a judged contest (see below). Included in the seasonal festivities as part of the Open House were the sale of hand-decorated wreaths and table arrangements and a Holiday Boutique sale. Proceeds benefited the club's local high school scholarship fund and other community donations and projects.

The club also sponsored an Adorn-A-Door contest at Palatine Manor, a senior residence facility in Germantown and helped decorate the village by placing live Christmas trees and wreaths along Main Street.

First Place - Amelia Melino



Second Place: The Flandreau children

Third Place - Haley Murray



## Greenbush

The Greenbush Garden Club conducted a membership drive and fundraiser at Becker's Farm Holiday Open House on December 3rd. The club had an information table set up displaying our activities with pictures, photo albums and our newly acquired award certificates. We distributed the club brochure and a list of our upcoming presentations, inviting all to attend a meeting. We also raffled off five beautiful gift baskets. Many of our members participated in this event and enjoyed speaking with people about the benefits of being a member of the garden club. Everyone had lots of fun and we even had a visit from Santa Claus!



*Teresa Murphy*



## Kinderhook

The Garden Club of Kinderhook decked the halls and rooms of Lindenwald, the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, last November 30. Using pine bows, poinsettias, boxwood and more, club members, with the help of the National Park Service staff, dressed up the President's mansion for the holiday season. Their projects for 2012 include a SFS, "Down on the Delta," June 2 and 3, with nine design classes..



Club members and National Park Service staff at Lindenwald: *Kneeling, from left to right: Cynthia Tiano Bogardus, Beverly Kallner, Vicki Smith, Geraldine Smith, Sandy Haemmerlein, Sandy Wooding. Standing: Carol Finkelstein, Pat Knapp, Jane Rose, Marilyn Ryan, Stephanie Lally, Fran Heaney, Jean Smith, Mike Wasko, DeNola Perreten, Maryann Weber, Beverly Igleburger, Barbara Irvine, Camille McComb, Pat Leary and Dawn Olson.*

*Fran Heaney*

## Schoharie Valley

The Schoharie Valley Garden Club will not meet again until March, at which time we will have election of officers and a pot luck lunch. In February our club will participate in NY in Bloom at the State Museum in Albany. That committee will set up for the weekend of February 24-26th. Proceeds benefit the Museum's After School Program. This year is their 25th Anniversary for this program.



*Janet Wierzchowski*

State President Pam Foehser with club treasurer Marie Muller at the Schoharie Valley Garden Club Christmas Luncheon. Both are former Third District Directors.

Standing: Patricia Sama, Melanie Nelson, Stephanie Lally, Fran Bufi, Cynthia Tiano Bogardus and Carolyn West. Seated: Reneta Benenati, Louise Bliss, Camille McComb, Susan O'Brien Nicholson and Kathy Bucholsky.



## A Time to Plan

The garden clubs of Columbia County met on Thursday, February 2, at the home of Camille McComb, Columbia County Chair, to discuss numerous up-coming events and concerns. Camille reported that at their May meeting, the Columbia County Board of Supervisors will proclaim the week of June 3-9 Columbia County Garden Club Week, to coincide with National Garden Week. To celebrate Columbia County Day a luncheon will be held at Winding Brook Country Club on June 5. The Claverack, Greenport, Germantown and Kinderhook clubs will also have educational activities planned during the week. Each club is hard at work preparing for the Columbia County Fair.

Third District Director, Reneta Benenati notified the members of spring meeting dates including an open board meeting to be held on March 15 at 10 am at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Valatie for members to network and learn more about the workings of the Third District Board.

Attending the meeting were; Patricia Sama, President and Louise Bliss, County Fair Chair of the Claverack Garden Club; Carolyn West and Kathy Bucholsky, Co-Presidents of the Greenport Garden Club; Frances Bufi, President and Melanie Nelson, County Fair Chair of the Germantown Garden Club. The Garden Club of Kinderhook was represented by Camille McComb, County Chair; Susan O'Brien Nicholson, President; Stephanie Lally, President Elect; Cynthia Tiano Bogardus, County Treasurer; Fran Heaney, County Press Book Chair; and Reneta Benenati, Third District Director. A delicious lunch was provided for all to enjoy.

*Fran Heaney*



2012 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention

Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo, NY

May 17-19

## “Explore the Wonders”

National Flower Show - 120 arrangements

Luncheon Program “Secrets of Chelsea” by Michael Shadrack

Banquet program “Rio - Acquarella of Color” by Ricardo Costal

Seminars and Tours

Evening Banquet



## Habitat Volunteers

On January 28, the garden clubs of Columbia County had a great day volunteering for Habitat for Humanity in Hudson.

Pictured, left to right, are:  
Geraldine Smith, Cynthia Tiano Bogardus, Stephanie Lally, Vivian Wachsberger, Camille McComb, Carolyn West and Kathy Bucholsky.

## CALENDAR 2012

- Feb. 24-26 "New York in Bloom" - N.Y.S. Museum Madison Avenue, NY
- March 4-11 Philadelphia Flower Show "Islands of Aloha" - Philadelphia, PA.
- March 15 District III Board Meeting (open) - St. John the Baptist Church  
Rte. 9, Valatie, 10:00 a.m.
- March 28-29 Annual FGCNYS Spring Meeting  
Hilton at Pearl River, Pearl River, NY
- April 7-8 Horticulture School, Rochester, NY
- April 15 May *Digest* deadline
- April 19 "SPRING SPLENDOR," District III Meeting  
Birch Hill, One Celebration Way, Schodack  
Julie Lapham - Designer/Presenter
- April 26 Trip to the Pine Hollow Arboretum, Slingerlands, NY  
"Magnolias in Bloom," etc.
- May 18-19 83rd National Garden Clubs Convention  
"Explore the Wonders"  
Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo, NY
- May 24 District III Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.  
Holiday Inn, Kingston, NY