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D I G E S T

Director's Message

I hope your holiday season has been enjoyable and you are looking to get busy. These cool months are when you have the time and energy to work on those indoor projects you've been putting off. At this time you aren't distracted by whatever is going on outdoors in your garden.

Now is also a great time to give your club help in planning for the coming year. Perhaps you are thinking of a flower show, applying for new awards or searching for new speakers and programs. If you are interested in finding out what you should be doing towards a show contact Victoria Bellias, our state chairperson for flower show schedules. Her e-mail address is vikkibellias@gmail.com; her phone number is 631-689-7337. If you are considering working toward new awards, then contact Pat Blundell at floralartistry01@hvc.rr.com. Your county chairperson would also have ideas for you.

This year New York in Bloom is opening at the NYS Museum in Albany on February 21 and runs through Feb. 23. It is always fun to carpool and then you have someone to walk through with you and another person to judge each arrangement with you. I hope to see many of you there.

I do need your help with a problem. My 2nd Assistant Director has resigned as has my Recording Secretary. If you would like to apply for either of those jobs please write me giving me your background and some personal information. If you would recommend someone please talk to them first and get their permission before you mention it to me.

Our Spring District Meeting will be held at the Diamond Mills Hotel in Saugerties. It promises to be great. The date is April 17, 2014. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Olive Felio

Garden Club Presidents and Interested Parties!

The Clematis Garden Club is sponsoring a bus trip to the 2014 Philadelphia Flower Show on Wednesday, March 5. The cost of the bus from Greenville will be \$45 per person. We will leave from Greenville at approximately 7 a.m. and return about 9 p.m. We could stop at the Thruway entrance to pick up people in that area.

The bus will drop us at the door. Tickets are \$32 at the door. There are various ways to get discounts online, but that will be up to individuals. There is also lots of information online, so google Philadelphia Flower Show 2014 for a start. You can sign up to get Facebook notifications.

This is not a fundraiser, and we need about 50 people to fill the bus. We need to receive an accurate count of how many people are interested in going by February 5. Please send this information to your club members to see if they would like to join us. Any interested individuals can email me at mlnahas@aol.com.

Hope you will join us,
Mary Lou Nahas,
Clematis President

Calendars

There are still a few 2014 Vision of Beauty Calendars available. The calendars are a handy way to keep track of your schedule and are a wonderful reference for arrangement ideas. They also make nice gifts for friends and relatives and are a great addition to a raffle basket. The price has been reduced to \$5 each. If you would like to purchase one please contact Diane Madden at ladiane@nycap.rr.com or phone 518-283-1067.

New Club Presidents

Athens Community Garden Club
Co-Presidents to August 2014

Mimi Greefield
Appalachian Drive, Unit 1135
Athens, NY 12015
518-945-1635 mimig154@aol.com

Joan Satterlee
164 High Hill Rd.
Catskill, NY 12414
518-945-2772 jsatterlee164@gmail.com

Catskill Garden Club

Louella Lane
40 Country Estates
South Cairo, NY 12482
518-945-4389 louellalane@gmail.com

Clematis Garden Club

Mary Lou Nahas
22 Lee Road
Oak Hill NY, 12460
518-722-8073 minihas@aol.com

Coxsackie Garden Club

Marie Kadlick
349 Adams Road
Athens, NY 12015
email to Gail Vorbach VP queynte@statetel.com

New Paltz Garden Club

Bonnie Champion Finkenaur
12 Meadow Rd.
New Paltz, NY 12561-4238
845-255-6436; cell 845-264-5663
bonniefinkenaur@gmail.com

Schoharie Valley Garden Club

Janet Wierzchowski
1837 Huntersland Road
Middleburg, NY 12122
518-827-4980 mamachow@hotmail.com

Design

Reflective design calls for material that gives back images of light and other sources to the viewer, and the material must be incorporated in the design. The reflective material can be shiny plastic, metal, ribbon, paper, pieces of mirror or other material that reflects.

One may incorporate a shiny container, but remember the title is reflective design not reflective container. Also, placing the finished design on a mirror or in back of the design does not meet the requirement of reflective design.

Antoinette Babb,
Design Chair



Jonathan and Timmy Mollo were the first place winners in the Germantown Garden Club's children's Gingerbread House Contest in December. The event was part of the annual holiday Open House at the Palatine Parsonage in Germantown. Children under 12 created edible masterpieces judged in the contest. The second place winner of the contest was an entry by Miss Barber's class of the Germantown Central School. Third Place winners were Nicolas and Sean Ferry.

Included in the club's seasonal open house festivities was the sale of hand-decorated wreaths, table arrangements and a holiday boutique. The club also sponsors an annual Adorn-A-Door contest at Palatine Manor, a local senior residence facility, and helps decorate the village by placing live Christmas trees and wreaths along Main Street.

Fran Bufi

Save the date: **April 17**

Third District Spring Meeting

April Showers Bring Spring Flowers

Diamond Mills Hotel

25 South Partition St., Saugerties

9 to 10:30 a.m.—Ways and Means, Vendors

10:30 a.m.—Business Meeting

Noon—Lunch

12:45 p.m.—3:30 p.m. Program

Presenter Douglas J. Koch is a world-renowned floral designer, with experience in both the USA and Europe. He has been chosen as the florist for a number of New York City five-star hotels and restaurants. He has an upstate studio and a home in Athens. With each event, he makes use of his exceptional talents while incorporating the highest standards of efficiency and ethics.

Registration details and menu will be forthcoming.

Update on The Blue Star Marker

As the Blue Star Committee Chair, I met with representatives at the Veterans Hospital in Albany. I proposed the NYS Third District Garden Clubs' plan to donate a Blue Star Plaque attached to a stone and to have it erected at the Veterans Hospital. They warmly accepted our proposal, and we chose a spot on their front lawn where some 3000 patients walk past everyday.

Along with other garden club members I went to the New York Stone Quarries in Alcove, NY, and chose a large stone in the rough. It will be shaped and sanded and be ready for installation in the spring or summer. The Blue Star Plaque has been ordered

from the foundry in Ohio and will be delivered this spring.

Coordination between the hospital and quarry is now being planned for the Blue Star Plaque to be attached to the stone and the stone delivered and installed at the hospital. We will plan a dedication ceremony with the Veterans Hospital personnel and appropriate dignitaries and guests for late spring or early summer.

Jean H. Horn

In Our Clubs

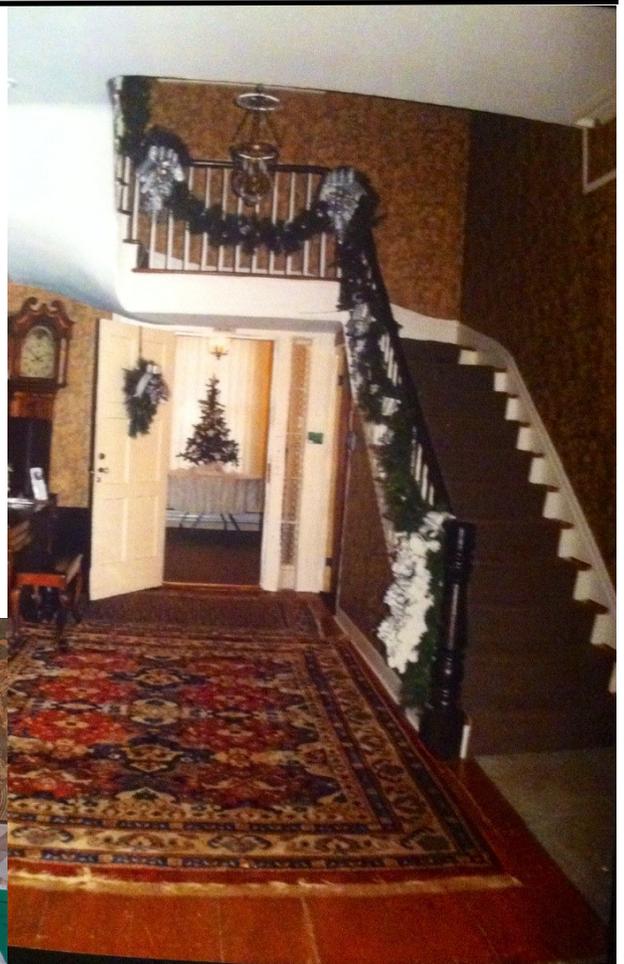
Blue Creek

Each year Blue Creek Garden Club members decorate the historic Pruyn House in Albany for the holidays. The 2013 theme was

"Winter Wonderland." The club also holds an annual holiday boutique there.

Mary Alice Morgan and

Michelle Karlquist



Germantown Garden Club Goes Wild in 2014!

Each January, Germantown Garden Club members work frantically to put together a program of meetings, projects, field trips and special events for the coming year. Our process works like this: a team of members have an initial brainstorm meeting in November or December to come up with ideas for a theme that our programs can carry throughout the year to make them more cohesive. 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.

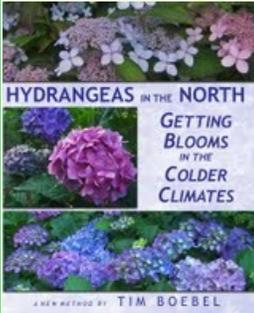
With that said, the team came out with a great theme for 2014: "Gardening Gone Wild." We will be looking at gardening differently and in unconventional ways.

In our March meeting we will have a speaker talk about "Foraging and Feasting." For April, we will have a talk about landscaping with edible plants and fruits, and in May we will have a talk about the ecosystem of the Hudson River, with an emphasis on Germantown. Other meetings will cover water features in the garden, preserving and drying foods, xeriscaping, and rain gardens. Sounds like a busy and interesting year for us.

Karen Janson

Garden Explorers

On March 4, the Garden Explorers Club of Niskayuna will present "Growing Northern Hydrangeas," a community service program by Tim Boebel, author of a newly published book on the subject. Mr. Boebel has lectured at the Berkshire Botanical Garden and has been a garden center manager since 1990.



The program will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Reformed Church in the Stockade, 8 North Church St. (corner of Union St.), Schenectady. Use the side entrance to the building on North Church St.; parking is on-street or in the church lots (one on North Church Street, and one on Union Street, across from the front of the church). The \$5 attendance fee includes coffee, tea and refreshments.

If you wish to attend, please respond by February 26 - email: gardenexplorers1@gmail.com

Greenbush

The speaker at the November 5 meeting was Keith Austin, a Rensselaer County Master Gardener, who presented a very informative program on hydrangea care. He showed an outstanding Power Point presentation highlighting different varieties and the new cultivars. He then addressed the most important questions: to cut back or not, sun or shade and how to keep them blue.

December 6 was a hectic morning. Joan Giordano, our garden therapy chairperson, supervised the session at Van Rensselaer Manor. It was the largest number of residents EVER making their own individual holiday arrangements. Even with the increased numbers, everyone was extremely pleased with the results.

Luckily we got a chance to wind down that evening at our annual holiday party, which was held this year at Paolo Lombardi's Restaurant in Wynantskill. The atmosphere was lovely and the food was delicious and everyone, even our significant others, had a great time.

The next morning we leapt out of our beds and held a membership drive (we never give up!) and raffle at Becker's Farm Holiday Open House in East Greenbush with six beautiful raffle baskets each with a value of at least \$100. Our members had solicited the contents of the baskets from local businesses as donations, which far exceeded expectations.

The first meeting of 2014 on January 7 and at only 4 degrees, featured Bob Sherwood, Rensselaer County Master Gardener, who presented a program on composting. In it he emphasized the benefits of natural over chemical soil enhancement. Remember, it's better to feed your soil instead of the plants. If you're ever in this area when things thaw out, be sure to visit the Rensselaer County CCE Demo Garden at Robert C. Parker School on Route 43 in North Greenbush to see what this means.

Diane Madden



The Hugh Plat Garden Club in Schenectady decorates the Schenectady County Historical Society for the Stockade Walkabout in the fall. We also decorate for the festival of trees for Christmas.

H u g h

P l a t



Jackie DeSanti



K i n d e r h o o k

Club members got a lesson in wreath making at the Berry Farm...



decorated Lindenwald, the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, for its holiday house tour...

and enjoyed their annual "Sharing our Best" dinner at the home of club member Vicki Smith and her husband.



Photos by Fran Heaney

Schoharie Valley

The Schoharie Valley Garden Club had a very successful Christmas Luncheon at the Best Western in Cobleskill. There were many wonderful benefit gifts, making a happy group of winners. Our garden club also placed handmade ornaments on a Christmas tree at the New York Power Authority on Route 30.

Looking forward, our club will have a display in New York in Bloom at the State Museum in Albany February 21-23 to support the Wildwood School program. Our annual meeting and the first meeting of the year will be March 5 at Our Lady of the Valley church hall at noon, with the election of officers and a covered dish luncheon.

In the spring, weather permitting we will install the plaque on the bench placed at the base of Vrooman's Nose hiking trail (see below). Funding for the plaque came from the County Treasury, to be utilized for a community project. The bench was in place last September.

Janet Wierzchowski



Shawangunk

On November 30, 2013, members of the Shawangunk Garden Club gathered to decorate the Christmas tree located at the Terwilliger House Museum in Ellenville. This was done in preparation for the coming holidays, when the museum is open to the public.

Towne and Country

Each year the club decorates a holiday tree in the Meeting House at the Crossings in Loudonville.



Heirloom Gardening Program

Ken Greene, heritage farmer and heirloom seed-saving authority, will present Heirloom Gardening from Seed to Seed at the Clematis spring tea on Friday, April 11, at the United Methodist Church of Greenville and Norton Hill, 5830 Rte, 81 in Greenville. The program, which is free and open to the public, begins at 1 p.m. Reservations are not required. Contact Mary Lou Nahas, 518-722-8073 for more information.

Ken's program will showcase our Northeast gardening heritage with images from the Hudson Valley Seed Library's collection of antique and vintage seed catalogs, seeds pack and ephemera dating from the 1850s to 1960s. He will offer simple tips for growing, harvesting and seed saving from local heirloom varieties.

Ken is co-founder of the Hudson Valley Seed Library in Accord, NY, a project he germinated in a small town library that has blossomed into an artisanal seed company and heirloom farm. Ken is an entertaining and informative speaker you won't want to miss.

Reflections

(Editor's note: Okay, so we're pushing the season a little here. But shouldn't the bleak midwinter have a bright yellow light at the end of its tunnel?)

Dandelion...plant with yellow flowers. Does this really describe that brilliant yellow flower that dots our lawns with perpetual determination to flaunt its brilliance as soon as our backs are turned?



We can dig, pull, poison, scream, even cry perhaps, but turn your back and walk away feeling smug that you finally got rid of this tenacious wildflower, only to wake up the next day and see it dotting your lawn once again, as if you never did a thing to destroy this golden brilliancy adorning your lovely green carpet lawn once more.

It even has the audacity to pop up among your beautiful flowers that you so meticulously weeded the day before.



If only our own very selves had the determination of this common but vivacious golden flower to perpetuate itself without any help but its own determination to grow wherever, whenever, however and still shine like pieces of gold wherever one of its tiny seeds floats away by the slightest nudge of a breeze and plants itself so innocently. Perhaps not only in the green carpet of your lawn but in that crack of your sidewalk...or the seam of the ending of your driveway to the garage - I've pulled as many as ten from mine in a single day. Or struggle to pull one out from between the rocks in your lovely rock garden. Oh, look: there is another golden flower, blooming away so innocently, there by your newly planted foxgloves. Flower??? With its determination to anchor its roots wherever, it has crossed over the line and become a weed.



But then, grubby little fingers couldn't bring Mommy a limp bouquet of this brilliant golden flower. Or make whistles from the flower stems. Uncle George couldn't make his tasty wind if there were no more dandelions. Aunt Gracie couldn't make her special salad from the new leaves of this vivacious plant. Guess we just have to keep pulling. You can't win this battle.

Betty-Jean Stinner

Landscape Design

The study of landscape in our surrounding includes plants, use of garden ornaments, fixtures, landscape drawings and many other types of relationships of man to his environment. Please note: At the NYS meeting in Geneva, a multi-refresher is planned for September 8, 2014, with the meeting being Sept. 9 and 10.

Antoinette Bab6,
Chair

Calendar Girl

February

Greenbush Garden Club

Feb. 4 6:30 p.m., East Greenbush Library. "Fairy House," presented by Denise Maurer, CCE Rensselaer County Master Gardener. More information: call 518-283-1067.

Community Garden Club of Marlborough-on-Hudson

Feb. 5 "Floral Expressions from the Heart" workshop. Celebrate a valentine theme. More information: call Lynne 845-787-5220.

Blue Creek Garden Club

Feb. 6 Garden therapy program; - workshop with senior citizens in a local assisted-living home. More information: call Michelle 518-495-8042.

The Garden Club of Kinderhook

Feb. 11 Valentine arrangement demo by a member, who is a chef. Bring a box of plants, vegetables, fruit and anything else that's meaningful. More information: call Cynthia 518-784-4216.

March

Greenbush Garden Club

Mar. 4 6:30 p.m., East Greenbush Library. "Calming the Wildlife in the Garden," speaker Angie Tompkins, CCE Albany Master Gardener. More information: call 518-283-1067.

Community Garden Club of Marlborough-on-Hudson

Mar. 5 "Sweet Violets," Toby Carey film presentation. More information: call Lynne 845-787-5220

Blue Creek Garden Club

Mar. 6 Spring cleanup tips for the garden, presented by a Master Gardener. More information: call Michelle 518-495-8042

The Garden Club of Kinderhook

Mar. 11 "Weeds—Just Misunderstood Plants." More information: call Cynthia 518-784-4216

Pine Plains Garden Club

Mar. 20 Sunprint/Cyanotype, presenter Mary Briggs. More information: call Mary 518-398-7461

Athens Community Garden Club

Mar. 20 "Container Gardens," presented by Rachael Smart of Story's Nursery. More information: call Carole 518-945-1352.

Coxsackie Garden Club

Mar. 31 "Pretty Posies," presented by Shelby Mattice. More information: call Marie 518-731-8406

To have your club's information listed in this calendar, please send a copy of your yearbook to Marilyn Ryan, 72 Wilderness Lane, Valatie, NY 12184-9409

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 with other clubs. Unlike in print newsletters, there is no prohibitive cost factor for using color. Pictures don't cost extra either, and they can be saved, downloaded and printed whenever you wish. Articles on various gardening and flower arranging topics are also welcome.

Material for *The Digest* should be sent to Maryann Weber, snail mail 2300 Spruce Drive, Valatie NY, 12184; or email junco@fairpoint.net. Unformatted copy and jpeg pictures are easiest to work with, but I'll try to decipher whatever you send - and contact you if I'm stumped.

If you're having trouble accessing this online version of *The Digest*, maybe you need to download the Adobe Acrobat Reader (free from Adobe) or some other program that can open PDF files. With that, you simply go to the State website - fgcnys.com - select District III on the home page and then select Digest Online.

National Convention

Check out the National Garden Clubs ' recently revamped website www.gardenclubs.org for information on this year's national convention, "Black Gold and Red Earth," which will be held in Norman, Oklahoma April 30-May 3.

From the Editor

This issue is coming out a little early because my husband and I are deserting this lovely winter weather for several weeks and going on a Caribbean cruise. I hope this February Digest looks more or less as I intended. Windows 8 and I are still not best buddies, and my computer continues to do things I don't think I asked of it—and not do things I definitely did ask of it!

When we come back I will try to convince myself that my break from publicizing my new mystery novel, *Now Running*, which began in December, has lasted long enough. It'll be time to wade back into the world of brand and product and assorted current book publishing terminologies, though I draw the line at approaching metadata. I may even design a new website, since the one I have now seems hard to access. Amazon, using my name in the search line, still works.

Stay warm and enjoy those plant catalogs that are making their annual appearance in our mailboxes.

Maryann