



Keeping us connected

The News

Newsletter of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State

Summer/Fall 2017 Volume 1, Number 1

Precious Moments



John Hansen, FGCNYS First Gentleman, proudly presented his wife Monica, the newly installed 45th FGCNYS President with a lavish floral arrangement created by Sue Suchak & Karen Braun, OPGC

More pictures on page 3.

From Monica's pen...

I am both proud and humbled to be your 45th Federated Garden Clubs of New York State President and have accepted this position with much anticipation. I'd like to thank former President Pat Wania for her work and dedication these past few years. And to all of our members, a special thank you for granting me this honor.

Through the years, gardening has become more complex than when our New York State Federation was founded in 1924. Many of us joined our garden clubs through the love of gardening and the joy of making friends, without too much thought to the wider impact. However, that has changed as we become more knowledgeable about the impact of planting as it relates to our world's sustainability. These days we are more aware of the need for a cleaner environment, for greening or re-greening our communities, and in general, our need to plant for a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. So as we continue to link our New York State community gardeners, it is with shared goals that **we join together to Plant America, for a cleaner, greener and healthier world.** See page 2.

In addition to a goal of a cleaner, greener, healthier world, I'd like to expand up that to talk about **planting the seed of membership in our garden clubs.** I'd like to challenge each garden club to make membership a focus of each meeting. Let's make it our goal to have a net increase of four new members, per club, over the next year. To remain strong as a Federation and to accomplish much, we need to make a concerted effort to attract and retain new members. **Please mention membership at each meeting and make it your goal to attract and retain new members.** As gardeners, we know that growing is always the basis of a garden, and likewise growing membership is the foundation of our garden clubs and our Federation.

Without this renewed growth and sustainability it will be difficult for us to achieve our goals. Each Club accomplishing this will receive recognition in the 2018 Annual Meeting in Binghamton. I know that while you are reading this, you are probably saying that we are working on gaining and retaining new members, but it doesn't seem to be working. How do we do we attract new members and where are they? In my periodic mailings to our Club Presidents, I will be sharing ideas to assist in this endeavor as well as looking for your thoughts. We are all vested in the challenge to grow our garden clubs to enable us to contribute to a cleaner, greener, and healthier world for ourselves and those we love.

Again, I am honored to be your President. I thank you for your support and promise to give my very best effort in service to this Federation. I know that by working together we can accomplish many great things.

From Carol Brown & Family

To our Garden Family,

Words cannot express how much we appreciate your visits, cards, notes, phone calls, flowers, and donations to his Scholarship Fund we received after the passing of our Husband, Dad, Grandpa Steve Brown.

He found such a joy in being part of the organization. Every Blue Star, Gold Star placed gave him such pride. Judging and showing at your Flower Shows: he looked forward to each event.

*I leave each of you his daily goal:
Each one Teach One.*



Stephen Brown, FGCNYS Board member, Master NCG Judge, Blue & Gold Star Chairman passed away on May 14, 2017. Stephen served many roles in District 5: 5th District Director, 5th District Judges Council Chair, and was current President of the Minnowbrook Garden Club. I'm sure there are other areas in which Steve was involved that I have not noted.

Please keep Carol Brown, also a FGCNYS Board Member in your prayers and thoughts. Cards may be sent to Carol at 42 Marshall Avenue, Mohawk, NY 13407-1131 from Monica Hansen, President FGCNYS

**District 9
Course I Flower Show School
October 3, 4, 5, 2017
First Congregational Church
Chappaqua, NY**

First course using the
New Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017, edition
First Course I available in the NE
Course I is a great introduction to the new Handbook,
effective July, 2017.
Perfect course for novice, judges learning the new Handbook,
or simply curious.
We encourage all to take the exam even if you are still
undecided about becoming a judge.

**Instructors:
Dot Yard**

NGC Chair for Flower Show Schools.

Topic: "Flower Show Procedure &
Horticulture" (Chrysanthemum & Needled Evergreen)
Dot and her committee are the ultimate authority on the
Handbook and can answer many of your questions.

**Jackie Davies
NGC Master Judge**

Member of Creative Flower Arrangers of America
National Flower Arrangers

To view tri-fold: fgcnys.com OR
District9fgcnys.com

To register:

Email: Chris Wolff, course registrar
ckwolf37@gmail.com
Call: Pamela Wright, District 9 FS Chair
914-923-3238

SAVE THE DATE!

**FGCNYS Spring 2018
Annual Spring Conference**

**Sunday, April 15-
Tuesday, April 17**

Binghamton, NY

Venue: Doubletree Inn by Hilton



This little character is
waiting for you at
the Binghamton Zoo



Phelps Mansion aka
The Monday
Afternoon Club
House



Cutler Botanical
Garden



**Give it a "whirl"! See you
in Binghamton!**

Shown right: Ross Park Carousel



New NGC theme: Plant America

Fifty-one states and International Affiliates comprise National Garden Clubs, Inc. Each State has its own name; for example: Federated Garden clubs of New York State, Inc., The Garden Club of Ohio, National Capital Area of Garden Clubs, Inc. None of these titles, connect them/us to National Garden Clubs, Inc.

This year, with a commitment for the foreseeable future, National Garden Clubs, Inc. has established a theme: **Plant America**. This theme has a singular focus on gardens and gardening. The words *Plant America* can either be a command to service or a description of what affiliated NGC clubs do. *Plant America* can cover any and every aspect of gardening, horticulture, garden design and community service. This theme has its own graphic logo for visual recognition of the program's name. With this in mind, each State has been asked to consider incorporating this theme so we can have a unified feeling of all states working together on a main focus of gardening. To that end, we encourage the clubs affiliated with FGCNYS **to join together to Plant America, for a cleaner, greener and healthier world.**

Providing Financial Support to Plant America Club Projects

National Garden Clubs, Inc. has established a new grant program for clubs entitled PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants with a simple application process. The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial support for new or existing club projects in their respective communities all across the United States. This fund will be a permanent fund with grants being given for each two-year administration. The first grants will be given during the 2017-2019 administration. **Individual garden clubs that are members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. may apply for funds up to \$1,000 for the direct expenses of projects. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2017.** Recipients of grants will be notified, and all money will be awarded by January 31, 2018. Projects must be completed by June 2019. Final reports are due within two months after the completion of the project or by July 1, 2019. **For more information: go to: gardenclub.org/projects/plant-America-community-project-grants.**

Wafa Includes a District 8 Designer: Claudette Smith!

Many of you had the opportunity of traveling with Jean Stapleton, or on your own, in 2011 when the World Association of Floral Arrangers held its Tenth World Flower Show in Boston, Massachusetts. It was the first time the prestigious show was held in the United States. What a phenomenal experience it was! Over six hundred floral designs were on display from the thirty member nations.

Three years later Ireland was the host country, and the Eleventh World Flower Show was held in Dublin. The unusually warm temperatures presented a challenge for the six hundred seventy designers who worked in the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) without the benefit of air conditioning, and they were victorious. National Garden Club offered a tour which included the Flower Show and some amazing gardens public and private. It, too, was an incredible experience.

When I learned there was a direct flight from Toronto to Barbados, I added the 2017 Wafa show to my bucket list. I was on my own, however.

I surveyed the passengers on my flight trying to determine who might be attending. My search continued as we moved through the customs line. Fortunately as I was checking into my hotel met Dawn from Toronto. We made plans to share a cab for the opening day and the experience was on!

The venue was Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Center, a spacious, multi-level conference center with lots of windows. While there were considerably fewer participants this year it was another wonderful show. It is so nice to have so many of the exhibitors on the floor eager to talk about their designs.

I am always so impressed with the Honorary Exhibitions. They are not judged but often contain plant material representative of the member nations.



In one of the classes, "Ocean Treasures", a friend of an exhibitor shared with me that the coral formations were created by the crocheting paper strips. WOW!!! A true example of patience and dedication to completing your design. (at left: close up of handiwork)

Maryann, whose design placed third in the class "Sinfully Spicy" shared with me that one of the criticisms she received was that her hot peppers were too small. "If they had let me bring into the country the ones I had from home, it would not have been an issue". Frustrated by visiting six local markets before finding the ones she did, the ones her exhibit were the best she could do. All in all it was a wonderful design in my eyes.

Sharing impressions with other attendees of the show over cocktails at the end of the day completed the experience.

Consider putting the Thirteenth Wafa show on your bucket list. The 2020 show will be hosted by India. What an adventure that will be!

Maryann Jumper, Past Director, District 8

To view award pictures... wafabarbados.com/awarded-pieces/photos

Barbados, June 19-25, 2017
 Congratulations to Claudette Smith, member of Ken-Sheraton Garden club on her recent accolade extended during the most recent World Association of Floral Arts competition entitled "Flowers in Paradise".

Shown right is Claudette's design which was awarded a "Commended" ribbon equivalent to 4th place at National Level of NGC Standard Flower Show. Claudette competed against 20 others in the "Lady Chitterly" class. Brava! Claudette.

In this Imposed/Challenge Design, designers had to include seed pods from the "Lady Chitterly"* tree and also use at least one of each piece of plant material provided.

Claudette is a member of 8th District, Ken-Sheraton Garden Club, a NGC FS Judge @ the Master Level, and NGCI FSS (Flower Show School) Design Instructor.

You may contact Claudette:
smithclaudettej@gmail.com

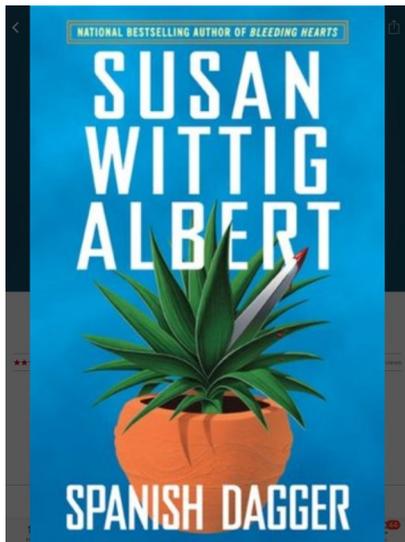
*Editor's Note: After we emailed back and forth, Claudette was able to get information from Wafa... re: this tree. "Lady Chitterly" is probably a local name for *Albizia Lebbeck* 'woman's tongue'. Please consult: Wikipedia.org/wiki/albizia_lebbeck, to see the tree with its pods.



**Italian Tour
N. Italy
2018
April 30-May 11**
with
Marisa Katzurin,
Horticulture Chair
District 2

Includes sights
other tours miss:
Gardens, Palaces,
Cities & Treasures.

*Begin your
journey with a
visit Marisa's
website for
details:
**aroundandback
travel.com***



Book Review *Spanish Dagger* by Susan Wittig Albert

Hey! China Bayles fans this is for you. Haven't met China Bayles? Try this read on for a delightful mystery/horticulture romp.

Ex-lawyer and current herbalist China Bayles runs an herb shop, has a catering business and now is doing a papermaking class on weekends. Her friend Carole Gaye is teaching the workshop and has requested one more thing for the class-some yucca leaves. She claims it makes great paper-strong and pliable. China knows just where to go for the best: out by the railroad tracks. The friends agree to meet in the morning to go on a hunt for yucca leaves. *Yucca glauca* or Spanish Dagger is one of the most common herbs in the Southwest, providing varied uses: food, drink, medicine, clothing, footwear and even construction materials.

China and Carole meet the next morning to go out to the yucca patch. While cutting leaves and admiring the stunning flower stalks, they notice some sneakers attached to legs, attached to a body amongst the yucca leaves. It turns out to be China's partner, Ruby's boyfriend-Colin Fowler.

Meanwhile, Ruby is away dealing with her kleptomaniac mother who locked herself in her car.

But wait! There is yet another mystery to solve.

China's husband Mike McQuaid, a former Houston homicide detective, now does private investigating. China's dad died 16 years ago in a car crash, but China's *newly found* half-brother is convinced it was homicide. He claims to have proof from the letters their dad wrote to his mom. Mike is asked to investigate.

As the novel unfolds, you'll be part of the action to discover: Who killed Colin and why? Was China's dad really murdered?

And yes... What is going on with Ruby's mom?

These novels are not only a delight to the armchair detective, but engage *the dear reader* in gardening lore. Each chapter begins with a recipe involving herbs or information on various plants and their function. So you get to solve some mysteries and increase your plant knowledge at the same time!

What will our intrepid book reviewer, Diana Brockelbank, District 5, be reading next? Is it another mystery?

Here is Diana's contact information:
diana545sews@yahoo.com
315-894-2390.

Tell her how much you enjoyed reading her suggested book.

Frightened Frogs, Ugly Vegetables, Creepy Crawlies part of State's Family Outreach Program

Welcome to Carol Brown the new chairperson for State Family Outreach.. Carol describes a Book Bag project. This is quite a program!

As the newly appointed Chairperson of the Outreach Program the goal is to think out of the box to educate our children and their parents. Looking for a different venue, I chose our local libraries to help with this educational program.

The idea for these Book Bags came from District 5-Clinton Garden Club. They began to put book bags in their local library filled with gardening type books. Children borrowed the entire bag.



A local company made up our club's Book Bag. See picture above. The Spring Bag included a note to both child and parents, two books: *The Frightened Frog* (from NGC) and *The Ugly Vegetables*. Both books teach a child the importance of saving our environment and the fun of growing vegetables as well as flowers.

Beside the two books, the Spring Bag also included soil, peat pots, sunflower seeds as well as string bean seeds. The child kept the growing kits and returned the books.

For Summer, we switched books to "creepy crawlers". The library chose the books this time. A letter to parents is included. This time children keep a magnifying glass*. We hope to encourage children to look under rocks, leaves, around tree trunks in search of "creepy crawlers". The Summer Bag also includes directions on how to make an explorer's journal from a cereal box and ideas about what to record. There is also directions for creating an Ecological Survey Site in their own backyards using sticks and string.

Right now, in District 5, we have 5 bags in our local libraries with a waiting list for each Book Bag.

Interested in starting your own Book Bag program partnering with your local library? Contact: Carol Brown at cbrown0946@me.com. I will try to help you get started.

* You can buy a case on line through the Dollar Store

Turmeric: the Golden Rhizome?



Turmeric, a rhizome related to ginger, is a spice used in its grated and powdered forms. A key ingredient in curry, turmeric gives curry pastes and powders that vibrant golden hue.

Long popular in India, the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and North Africa, these days turmeric is enjoying a golden moment among Americans because of its anti-inflammatory health

benefit. Maybe you've seen yoga moms sipping school bus hued juice. After a workout "school bus juice" has a calming affect on muscles; or your dad taking turmeric supplement for his memory. Turmeric's anti-inflammatory quality is great for arthritis sufferers as well. Since many diseases are now being attributed to inflammation, turmeric is golden.

Turmeric is available in most spice aisles. You can find it fresh at Farmers' Markets and Produce aisles. Use in salads, custards, creams, smoothies or just sprinkle over your cottage cheese or yogurt. Enjoy its healthy flavor in your daily diet.

*Contributor: Alma Harford, 7th District, NYS Board Member.
Contact: her @ almaharf@frontier.com Ph: 585-755-5293.*

Mother Nature... turn off the faucet!

Dear Ima Gardener,
In Western NY.. It's been cooler and more rainy than usual ... we do have some clouds normally, in fact we are on the same latitude as England, but we usually experience the *lazy, hazy days of summer*.. Not this year.

All this rain and tornado activity is affecting my lovely container plants. Some are definitely showing signs of stress. What can I do? All Wet in WNY...

Dear All Wet...
Thank you for the weather report, geography lesson, and reminder of one of the best summer songs EVER. That said... Since most plants can't swim, except water plants, but that's another column. Plants stay wherever they are planted: a sure sign that container plants are incurable optimists. Neither can plants run for cover.

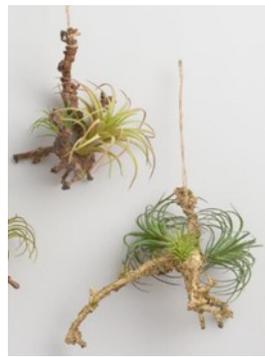
You didn't mention if you planted them in the world's worst invention: water retaining potting soil. So there maybe hope for you.

Since it may not be practical to put umbrellas over each container, can you can bring them to a sheltered area until they dry out? Watch weather reports diligently. Water sparingly between bouts of rain.

EMERGENCY RESUSCITATION: Remove your plants from their container immediately... be sure to check that the container has proper drainage... That is holes in the bottom. *Beware self watering containers with false bottoms* that retain rainwater.* Remove the mud encasing their roots... clean out the container... be sure that drain holes in the container are open and there are no false bottoms*. Add new dry soil to their container and replant. This may work.

If your plants are too stressed... lower the pretty garden flag to half mast.

A Passion for House Plants: Tillandsia



Need a low-maintenance houseplant that grows without soil? Consider an *Air Plant*. Known as Tillandsia, these quirky plants, a type of bromeliad, hail from U.S. southern states to northern Argentina. In order to thrive, air plants need bright, indirect light. Rooms with southern or eastern facing windows make good candidates. As a general rule of thumb, the higher the humidity in your space, the more light is tolerated by the air plant.

Air Plants and Artificial Light: Full spectrum (fluorescent) light is a must. Place the plants no further than 3 feet from the light source, 12 hours per day.

Water: Watering an air plant is the trickiest piece of the Air Plant care puzzle. Some people swear by misting, others by soaking. Here's what is recommended as a starting point: Once a month, soak your air plant in room temperature tap water (or rain/pond water for 20-30 minutes. Then shake excess water from your plant. Turn it upside down and place it on a towel in a bright space. *This is very important! Air plants will quickly rot if they are allowed to stand in excess water.* Then once a week, mist your plant thoroughly.

Air Plant Life Cycle: Air plants flower once in their lifetime. Depending on the species, the blossoms last from a few days to a few months. Including a variety of beautiful bright colors, like pink, red and purple. *Flowering is the peak of the air plant life cycle, but also marks the beginning of the plant's old age - after it flowers, the plant will eventually die.* But Just before, during or after flowering, depending on the species, your air plant will reproduce by sending out 2-8 "pups". These baby air plants, which start out very small, will eventually grow into their own mother plants

How to Care For Air Plants in Aeriums and Terrariums: "Aeriums" are a special kind of terrarium. Since your plant won't come out from its glass enclosed Aerium, you won't be able to soak it; relying solely on misting. Here's the formula for misting:
Small glass = less air circulation = longer drying time for plant = less frequent misting.
Large glass = more air circulation = shorter drying time for plant = more frequent misting.

When misting your air plant, try to mist around the plant, rather than onto the plant. You are trying to create a humid environment. Think of applying your favorite perfume... you "mist" and then walk into it. Do that for your air plant as well.

The hardest part regarding the care of an air plant is choosing the perfect vessel. If you're thinking of creating a colorful, modern accent or a unique planter idea, you can use glue, wire, fishing line, twisty ties, nails or staples. *Nails and staples can only be used on plants with a woody stolon or with sufficient roots.* Do not commit herbicide: *Stapling your plant on its fleshy parts will kill it.* Try to use a waterproof glue such as Liquid Nails, E6000. If you use hot glue, allow the glue to cool for 5 seconds. Superglue and copper wire will kill your plant.

Give your office or windowsill an upgrade with our new favorite houseplant. Link: brit.co/cleaninghouseplants or brit.co/diypplantersforspring.

Contact Annette Kuhn, FGCNYS House Plant Chair, District 8: Ken-Sheraton G.C. Email: akuhn@rich.com

Go for the Gold...

Informal scenes from the Installation of Monica Hansen as the 45th President of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. The ceremony was part of the 93rd Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers held at the Millennium Hotel, Buffalo, NY.

... April 3-5, 2017



Pat Wania, the outgoing President of FGCNYS, shows the audience the Gold President's pin worn by all State Presidents during their tenure.



The gavel was passed...

In her welcome to attendees, printed in the Annual Meeting's program. Pat thanked Babbidean Huber and committee members who made the event possible. And... As we transfer the responsibility of running this great Federation from one hand to another, let us look to both the past and the future as we make this transition. It has been my great pleasure to lead you these past two years, and it is with heartfelt thanks to all... who have made this job... worthwhile.

Monica Hansen, 45th President of FGCNYS, thanked everyone for sharing the moment encouraging members work to uphold the NGC, Inc. initiative "Plant America-for a greener, cleaner, and healthier world".

Pins exchanged...



Continued from page 1
Gotta Love Her!
Definitely the picture of the Annual Meeting...

Remember John Hansen's Bear Hug which just enfolded Monica?



New board presented



During Installation Reception, Monica shares a joyful moment with Granddaughter Chaska Hansen.



Above l.to r.: Diane Schlipfack, Lynn Pezold, Ellen Webster, Sue Anne Robinson, Monica Hansen, Victoria Bellias, Lucille Bauer, Bev Walsh, OPGC, mentor

Tuesday's luncheon presenter, Cleo Lehman advised attendees to "Think outside the box and upcycle everyday items" when creating outdoor containers.



Deadline for March issue... please submit your information/pix between now and January 15. See page 8 for submission info. Submit copy through mail or as an email attachment.

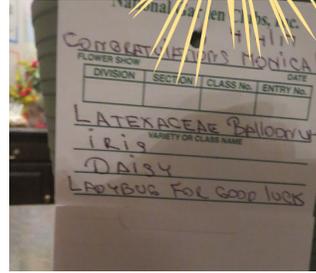
Creative Sparks...



Sometimes State Historian Eileen Carrier (left) has to bend over backwards to get the picture.



Even for a fantasy design... Evelyn Mietlowski (above) created a "proper" ticket. (left)



Workshops:
(left) Mary Brummer, OPGC & Judge, demonstrates leaf manipulation.



(left) Kudos to Sue Suchak, Karen Braun and their committee members for the lovely table arrangements during the Annual Meeting.



(below, left) Sh-sh-sh... is someone home? An example of a fairy garden from the program by Gail Klanian & Sharon Wicks



During the Judges' Council program, (above: left & right) Melissa and Susan Loughran, NFC Accredited Judges, Master Level, created samples of two new NGC Challenge designs... Below: Claudette Smith, NGC FSS Instructor, regaled the attendees with two new designs: (left) Grouped Mass and (right) Cascade.



An educational tri-fold created by Sue Suchak highlights notable Buffalo area food and attractions...





FGCNYS Fundraiser... Bloomin' Bucks

With Brent & Becky's Bulbs
Catalogue available

Order

Fall, Spring Bulbs

Toll Free: 877.661.2852

or

Online: www.bloominbucks.com

Follow easy peasy instructions..

Select: Federated Garden Clubs of WNY.

Once on Brent and Becky's bulbs website choose to:
order from the catalogue
or download the catalogue.

Place your order: *click shop; click Fast Shop.*

A percent of your sale supports FGCNYS.

Huge selection of bulbs, plants, perennials, supplements,
books, tools, home accessories..

*See something in another catalogue? Take a moment to give
Brent & Becky a call to see if it is available through them.*

Order your fall bulbs now.

Water for South Sudan



Pictured left..

The FGCNYS well is located in the village of Manyang-Nyorich, in Marial Baai, Wau State. GPS coordinates: N 08° 02' 70.8" E 028° 12' 47.3"

Holding sign, right: Village Chief Majok Anyuon.

In an April 24, 2017 letter, Lynn Malooly, Executive Director, US.. Ms. Malooly's concluded: "Thank you for your supported generosity, which is now helping to provide fresh, clean water and a new future to the people of Manyang-Nyorich, South Sudan."

Advertising information for The News

Rates include color.

Full page: 8" X 10" \$100 includes color

1/2 Page: 4" X 10" (portrait/vertical) or 5"X7" (landscape/horizontal) \$60 includes color.

1/4 Page: 4" X 5" (landscape/horizontal) \$35

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fgcnys@verizon.net or

Call the office 518-869-6311.

Ad deadline is January 15, 2018.

Our apologies for the lateness in the mailing of this issue of *The News*. We are equating it to starting a new perennial bed: you have great plans and dreams and then these insidious little weeds pop up. It got to a point, as often happens, where the weeds grew faster and took over. And rather than a riot of color as planned, we needed to curtail our enthusiasm and go the more cost effective route of black and white. To see *The News* in all its fabulous color format, please visit fgcnys.org.

To submit pix/article to The News

State Historian Eileen Carrier is documenting Monica's tenure as our State President. Please send pictures in a jpg format including notes describing the event and names of people, who are in the picture, along with their titles, and other pertinent information.

Email: ecbooker1@yahoo.com

Or mail hard copies to Eileen. 120 Milford St. Hamburg 14075-4753

For the newsletter... send picture /article to as an email attachment to: bobpope5@hotmail.com. You may mail a hard copy of the picture/article to: Carol-Jo Pope, editor of The News, 13 Timberlake Drive, Orchard Park, NY 14127

To have either pix to Eileen or Carol-Jo returned include a stamped, self addressed envelop.

Hollow Logs and Stumperies Provide Landscape Design or How to Celebrate the *Windfall* of Recent Storms

To remove or not to remove a stump? And Hamlet thought he had a dilemma... With recent storms flattening landscape trees, many of us may have opted for a complete stump removal to relieve the clutter in our yards. After all what good is a stump in the middle of the landscape? Lee Schreiner, Horticulture Chair for District 8, has the answer.

Stumps left when a tree is lost in the garden should delight a gardener and landscaper. Individual stumps can serve as elevated pedestals to showcase potted annuals or garden art. Hollow a stump and create a container or the basis for a fountain. If you are not fortunate enough to have a stump, find a naturally hollowed out log or a small log to serve as a pedestal. Stumps look particularly good near a wooded area or a path. With recent storms we have experienced in WNY, you or your neighbors will probably have broken trees or mature tree limbs that can provide this landscape interest.

It is possible that you can create your own **Stumpery**. A stumpery traditionally consists of tree stumps, logs, driftwood or large pieces of bark in some combination. Place your stumpery elements right side up, upside down to show roots, or on their sides. A stumpery provides a natural garden for ferns, mosses, and native plants as well as providing homes for toads, small mammals, insects and important microorganisms. Be careful not to disturb the stumpery once it is set up. It can destroy the ecology or you can get stung if a ground dwelling bee has made a home. Stumperies slowly compost into the environment, enriching the garden and local ecology. Most of us cannot create large stumperies, but we can create smaller ones in the back of our gardens. Hopefully, you'll agree that a stumpery is a great way to organize windfalls.

The first Stumpery, built in 1856 at Biddulph Grange, was designed by William Cooke, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England. Stumperies remained popular in Victorian England and is described as a *Victorian horticultural oddity*. Their popularity is again on the rise due to environmental concerns as well as to emphasize nature's beauty. Today, Prince Charles has designed the largest stumpery in England at Highgrove House.

Let's start with a hollowed out log or stump to re-create the magic of nature. Plants such as ferns mosses, lichens, alpines and/or succulents will thrive in these settings. Stumps and hollowed out logs provide an ideal habitat for a shade loving plants. Especially if stumps and logs are used to create an understory garden. Hollowed logs are excellent for an herb garden.

DIRECTIONS to create your own magical container.

Planning: If you have no stump, decide on the kind of log you'd like... for a rustic look, pick a log with thick bark, twigs, or even moss growing along the side. (Do not remove the bark from your choice, In a few years the bark will begin to fall off your stump or log.. Which only adds interest as time goes on. There will be other storms to add to your stumpery). A manageable stump that you probably can re-locate from another spot and that will create an effect is about two feet long and ten to fourteen inches in diameter. If you plan to stand your stump upright, be sure ends are flat. Flat ends are also easier if you are planning to hollow out your log.

Chiseling your log: Outline the area you wish to chisel out. Using a hammer and chisel begin. This is time consuming, but the result is worth the effort. To facilitate chiseling.. You can also drill holes closely to each other along the length of the hollow you wish to create. The drill holes will make it easier to chisel out the area. Hint: Mark the drill bit with masking tape to know when the proper drill depth is reached. Drill holes at the bottom of the log or at the bottom side to create drainage.

Planting materials: Place small stones or horticultural charcoal in the bottom of the hollow and top fill with equal parts potting soil, peat moss, perlite and a little bit of organic fertilizer to create porous soil to provide good root aeration and to promote good drainage.

Planting: Like any container, select plants appropriate to your setting (sun or shade) and having the same water needs. Native plants tend to thrive in these magical containers. Filled with trailing flowers, vines or sprouting delicate ferns, the effect appears to spring from nature. Containers/planters made from tree stumps create a natural environment for small wildlife and supports a sanctuary for birds and butterflies.

Special effect: Camouflage the windfall... easy, peasy free landscape impact.

For seasonal change... submerge a plastic container into the hollow so that edges are not visible and plant annuals.

Moss as a garden element... If your stump is in poor light, consider planting moss to cover the stump. Stumps left to decompose will develop moss of their own. You can hasten the process by smearing your log with a moss paste. Moss paste: Blend a handful of moss with dirt removed with 1 tsp. sugar and 1 cup of buttermilk. Spread mixture over a layer of soil on top of the stump. During the initial planting, you'll need to spritz the moss with water to promote sprouting. Once established, the moss will feed off the natural elements of the stump. Since the moss provides such convincing coverage, you may want to mark the stump's location with rocks in high traffic areas.

Climbing vines... Vines provide ideal coverage for unsightly stumps in your landscape. Vines are full, fast growing and relatively low maintenance. Choose a vine suitable for your heartiness zone. Consider clematis, ivy, or low growing roses to beautify your stump or hollow log display.

In the beginning two 50' Norway spruce were removed after damage from the huge November 2015 snow storm... stumps.... Even landscape helpers couldn't resist the view from the main stump (2016) ... early Spring 2017.. Accent plants: dwarf daylilies and a Montauk daisy... Landscape contains: 5 trunk river birch, Japanese maple, winter berries, and a Russian hemlock. This accidental stumpery is located at home of Carol-Jo Pope, District 8, Orchard Park NY. *We didn't know what we created until Lee submitted this article.*



Trees: New York State's Greatest Resource

Trees, trees of life, are one of the greatest resources of the State of New York. The state is located in North America's Eastern Forest Ecosystem. "In fact, 63% of the state is covered in forest; that is an acre of forest for every resident," according to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (D.E.C.).

Originally, when the first settlers from Europe located their homes on this land, our state was almost completely covered in needled evergreen forests, primarily White Pine. The prevalence of Evergreen forest meant that the climate then was colder. Evergreens need a cooler climate to thrive.

By the mid-1800s, forest land had shrunk by 75%. Evergreens were harvested for boards, turpentine and tar used in the shipping industry. New York city was established as a major seaport.

The land was also heavily cleared for agriculture and to build log cabins. New York State was the bread basket of the early colonies. Grain was primarily grown in the Genesee and Mohawk Valleys.

Once the Erie Canal was constructed, settlers moved to the central plains of North America and we learned how to plow the rich grasslands, the breadbasket of the country shifted West. Farms were abandoned, and the land reverted to forest: an example of nature's natural ecosystem. Also, during one spring thaw when the Erie Canal was flooded, and the mules could not pull the barges, the New York government put a quick end to the extensive tree harvesting by creating the Adirondacks preserve. Too many trees, which had prevented seasonal erosion, had been cut down. The income from the Erie Canal was essential to pay for all the services New York State provided (no state taxes). That canal had to function! An example of economics influencing nature.

Today, New York is dominated by deciduous mixed hardwood forests, proof that the climate is warmer. *Seventy-six percent of all our forest land is privately owned.* The DEC manages most of the remaining forest land in the form of ecological preserves, state parks, etc. *We have no National Park in this state, because our State Park System existed before the National Park System was founded.*

New York State is also rich in Urban Forests. Forty percent of all community lands are covered by trees: parks and street trees. I remember before the American Elm tree was eradicated, some streets in Buffalo looked like green cathedrals. Now we watch Ash trees die in mass, as the Emerald Ash Borer does its damage.

On Arbor Day, the end of April we try to remember that (1) Trees fight global warming because they take carbon dioxide from the air and fix the carbon in wood. (2) Trees in the landscape increase the value of our homes by 15%, and (3) Trees are also a home for birds and other small creatures.

When did you last plant a tree? Did you ever plant one? Trees are the solution to many global issues. And since they grow so well in New York State, when we plant one tree we help the rest of the World.

In keeping with the Plant America NGC initiative consider planting a tree this fall.

Contact: Maria Gerbracht, FGCNYS Arboriculture and Arbor Day Chair, MRGerbracht@verizon.net



Time to look within your districts and garden clubs for students who qualify & are interested in two important scholarships offered annually by the FGCNYS. Important information below!

FGCNYS Scholarships Information

College Scholarship

FGCNYS continues to offer \$1000 scholarships to a full-time student entering their second or third year of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college. Applicants must be NYS residents with a qualifying major. Additionally, the NGC offers up to forty-one \$4000 scholarships to students entering their third or fourth year of undergraduate study, or enrolled in a Masters program. Information and applications may be obtained from the respective websites.

This year Jane Madis (FGCNYS Scholarship Chair, Artful Gardeners GC, 10th District), and Catherine Barthel (FGNYS Ass't Chair, Smallwood GC, 8th District) will work with longtime Scholarship Chair Jean Stapleton to identify ways to strengthen the program through improved outreach to member clubs, colleges offering appropriate majors, and potential applicants. We anticipate reaching out to the Districts for information and suggestions, and look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Environmental Conservation Scholarships

Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc. under President Monica Hansen and the FGCNYS Board has approved the **sending of one youth from each District to the 2018 Department of Environmental Conservation Camp.** These summer camps provide hands-on environmental education, sportsman and outdoor fun from Sunday through Friday. FGCNYS will pay for one candidate from each District. The scholarship does not include transportation or clothing. There are seven sessions of 4 camps. Once approved, the child will choose their preferable week on line.

The camps' location and their age requirements are:

Camp Colby - in Franklin County, next to Adirondack Forest Preserve: ages 11 - 13 years.

Camp DeBruce - in southern Catskills: ages 11 - 13 years.

Camp Rushford - in Allegany County: ages 11 - 13 and 14 - 17 years.

Camp Pack Forest - in southern Adirondacks: ages 11 - 13 and 14 - 17 years.

ALL CAMPERS MUST BE THE MINIMUM AGE of 11 years old by December 1, 2017.

For additional information: www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html

If you are interested, please contact your District Director for application forms. Each child will need to submit a paragraph, either written or typed, explaining why they would like to attend an environmental camp. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will weigh into the final decision.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR DISTRICT DIRECTOR BY NOVEMBER 1, 2017.

Bits and Pieces

Second District will be holding Course I of Gardening Schools on October 18 - 20, 2017 at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River, NY. Contact: Vikki Bellias: vikkibellias@gmail.com

2018 FGCNYS Environmental Camp Scholarship. FGCNYS will pay for one candidate from each District. Please talk with your District Director for details and application. Deadline for applicants is November 1, 2017. See page 10.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

If your Garden Club is searching for ideal gift for the outgoing/incoming flower show chairman, invaluable even as a perk from you to you – look no further. Give the gift of Life Membership in the FGCNYS, Inc. *Cost is \$100. Since FGCNYS's inception in 1924 the price has not changed. With today's inflation that translates to \$1,395.56. Think of the savings.*

Benefits include:

- Attending Federation and Life Member meetings and receiving preferential seating at meals.
- In any calendar year, attend one course in any of the schools held in the state upon payment of one half the registration fee, providing you are not taking the course for credit. Meals are extra.
- Receive the NYS News for life even if you relocate out of state.
- Wearing the Life Member pin.
- You are supporting the Life Membership Educational Fund.

To join, contact your District Life Membership Chairman or contact your New York State Chairman for Life Membership (National, FGCNYS, C.A.R.) Babbidean Urban Huber, 716-839-9185, babbidean@hotmail.com. Forms are also on the FGCNYS, Inc., website.



Blue Star Memorial Chair Update

Steve Brown has passed on his passion to honor those who are serving or will serve in the U.S through the installation of Blue Star Memorials.

Carol Brown recalls the number of Blue Star dedications that she and her husband Steve were privileged to attend and how proud Steve was.

Until a new Chairperson is appointed, Carol Brown plans to accept your applications and forward them. Carol is available to research and answer all your questions.

There is no anticipated price increase for 2017. If your club is thinking about purchasing either a Blue or Gold Star memorial this is the year to do it.

Just a reminder ... you have made a life long commitment to upkeep your marker. Contact Sewah Studios who will refurbish your marker should the need arise. Contact: Carol Brown: cbrown0946@me.com

The Joy of Garden Therapy

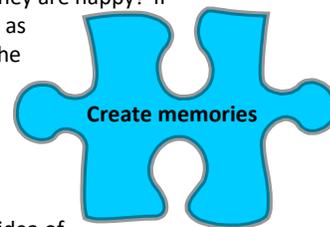
Does your Club participate in Garden Therapy? Clubs, that considered adding Garden Therapy to the activities, probably have many questions. Two come to mind: How to begin? Cost? So let's begin.

WHAT: Garden Therapy is a Club committee devoted to providing *garden and nature related* activities to persons who are physically or learning challenged in senior centers, nursing homes, schools, etc. *Garden related* is defined as the growing of plants, the artistic use of plants and other natural materials, the study of birds, nature and conservation, and the exhibiting of knowledge, interests and skills in these areas.

WHY: Community involvement! As gardeners and nature lovers this is an opportunity to reach out to others, youth and adults, to share our enthusiasm and knowledge. For people who can no longer fully participate in the outdoors, bringing a bit of nature's beauty to them can create a pleasant experience. Hopefully we can decrease boredom and stimulate their day, and bring out their creativity and self-expression with our projects. Developing a caring social interaction with the participants will promote their well being.

HOW: Visit a Garden Therapy session being held by a neighboring Club. Question them on the pros and cons of getting involved. Hold a meeting with your Club where you discuss the issues. What facility do we want to work with? What members are willing to share their talents? What day and time will work best for the volunteers and the facility? How often – once a month, every three months, only certain holidays? Brainstorm on ideas for projects. Know the level of ability of the people you will be working with. Figure out a budget. How many participants can you work with? Consider the number of volunteers for a given visit, how much the project will cost per participant, and the time to complete the project. A one hour time frame is reasonable for keeping interest and finishing the project.

INTERACT: If you are happy, they are happy! If working with adults, talk to them as adults. Let them do as much of the project as they are capable of doing, assisting when necessary. Encourage them to try, and praise their work and efforts. Sometimes there is hesitation to participate because of lack of an idea of what to do with the completed item. You need to supply an answer, such as a decoration for their room or a gift for a family member or friend. Remember to smile and everyone will have a good time! *Thank you Judy Visco, for the insights into this wonderful interactive activity. More questions? Contact Judy: viscoff@aol.com*



New York Botanical Garden welcomes Chihuly until October 29, 2017

The New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx is one of the world's largest and most important gardens. Its 250 acres was donated in 1891 to the city of New York and now boasts over 1 million plants and trees in specialized gardens and collections that can be visited in outdoor walks and within the huge indoor Victorian and Haupt Conservatories with exotic rain forests, desert plants, and artistically displayed varieties of botanical collections and special exhibitions. There is a tram that will tour you through the massive park with wonderful botanical collections and renowned exhibitions. The botanical museum is worth a visit and the botanical library is the largest in the world. The garden is a world leader in plant research and conservation. Until October 29, 2017, you can visit the world-renowned Dale Chihuly

breathtaking exhibition of his often huge blown glass organic works which showcases shapes in brilliant colors that interplay light and color within the botanical stage of the gardens. On Chihuly nights 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. (Thursdays in July-August and Thursdays to Saturdays in September-October) his exhibitions are spectacularly illuminated.

The Garden is open year-round, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. Tickets are \$23 during weekdays and \$28 during weekends and Monday holidays. For more information visit nybg.org or call 718-817-8700. *From Marisa Katzurin, FGCNYS Botanical Gardens Chair*



The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State leadership is part of the glue that binds us all together.

Seated l. to r.:
Lucille Bauer, 1st VP; Monica Hansen, President; Victoria Bellias, 2nd VP; Sue Anne Robinson, 3rd VP

Standing l. to r. : *Lynn Pezold, Recording Secretary; Diane Schlipfack, Corresponding Secretary; Carol Anderson, Assistant Treasurer; Ellen Webster, Treasurer; Lynne Arnold, Parliamentarian*

