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Director's Message

I have already been out poking in my gardens. There are small green spears coming up and I get so excited to see that they have pulled through the winter and are getting ready to please me. What it needs right now is for me to do a bit of careful raking to get the leaves off. You may not believe it but some of the leaves are still frozen in place! *(Editor's note: hopefully, those leaves have thawed and been relocated since Olive wrote this paragraph!)*

Our Third District Spring meeting was held in a new venue, the lovely Diamond Mills Hotel in Saugerties. It drew an excellent crowd: 152 attendees representing twenty-four of our clubs. *(See pictures page 7)*

Have you seen the trifold which has been printed to inform the public about the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State? It is very informative and gives many reasons why people should join a Federated Garden Club. It gives our mission statement, and there is an excellent map of NYS showing where each District is and how to reach them. Call 1 518 869-6311 to get a supply of these excellent publicity folders for your club members to use.

Many events are taking place in our Third District this spring and summer. Carefully read this Third District newsletter, **The Digest**, to find out everything that is going on and join in as often as you are able. Encourage your members to join the fun.

I would encourage all of our clubs to send to **The Digest** Editor, Maryann Weber the news about your club. The pictures add so much to each edition.

Sincerely,

Olive Felio



The history of our garden clubs dates back to 1891, when the first club was formed in Athens, Georgia. After that, other clubs began to appear, some in New York State. It was at this time that a woman in our state organized 24 clubs to form a Federation. The clubs were charter members. The woman who had this vision was Mrs. John W. Paris. The group's first meeting was at the offices of the New York Horticultural Society, and the date was February 29, 1924. Forty-one women and two men were at that first meeting; thirteen other clubs couldn't be represented but approved the idea. This was the beginning of the Federation, but it portended a lot more.

Reneta Benenati,
Historian

'Tis the Season to...Sell Plants

Saturday, May 10

Coxsackie GC Plant Sale

Opens 9 a.m.

Hope Plaza, Route 9W, Coxsackie

Shawangunk GC Mother's Day Plant Sale

9 a.m.—2 p.m.

the Gazebo at the corner of Canal St. and Main St., Rte. 209, Ellenville.



Kinderhook GC Garden and Baked Goods Sale

8:30 till noon

Kinderhook Village Green

Saturday, May 17

Germantown GC Plant Sale

8 a.m.—1 p.m.

Palantine Park, Germantown

Greenbush GC Plant Sale

9—11 a.m.

The Elks Club Pavilion

683 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush

New Paltz GC

Tenth Annual Community-Wide Plant Sale, Swap, & Garden Yard Sale

8:00 a.m.—noon

Bring identified plants, bulbs, seeds, books, tools, pots, vases, and all garden-related items for swap or sale.

Deyo Hall, 18 Broadhead Ave. New Paltz



Pine Plains GC Plant Sale

9 a.m.—noon

Eno House, 7784 S. Main St.

Pine Plains

Friday, June 6



Catskill GC Plant and Bake Sale

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Leggio Park, Main Street, Catskill. Featured will be *Lantana 'confetti'*, the club's flower of the year.

Saturday, June 7

Greenport GC will participate in the plant sale at Mt. Pleasant Reformed Church, 33 Church Rd., Hudson.

Come Celebrate National Garden Week

with the Garden Clubs of Columbia County



Please join us for the bi-annual
Columbia County Day Luncheon

Wednesday, June 4th 11am - 2pm

Kozel's Restaurant

1006 NY Route 911, Ghent

Buffet luncheon, Dessert, coffee or tea

Cash Bar

Featuring a special presentation by
Erin Brady, Floral Designer, Crazy Daisy Florists

Tickets \$25

Make checks payable to Columbia County Garden Clubs and mail to
Cynthia Bogardus 102 Grandview Dr., Valatie, NY 12184

Reservations must be made by May 25th

Questions??? Call 518 758 2944

The Planners

Seated: Greenport GC president Kathy Bucholsky, Columbia County Chair Sue Chiafullo and Germantown GC president Fran Bufi. Standing: Kinderhook GC members Cynthia Tiano Bogardus and Fran Heaney.



The Monarch Butterfly and the Importance of Milkweed

How do you react when you see a monarch butterfly? I stop whatever I'm doing and watch with amazement—how this butterfly goes dancing through the air, shopping for flowers' sweet nectar to feed on. And suddenly off it goes.

Unfortunately, all is not right for the monarch butterfly. In North America global warming, invasive wildflowers, farming practices and pesticide use have adversely affected its habitat, especially in regard to the importance the milkweed plant plays in its existence.



A monarch needs a source of food for its larvae (milkweed plants), nectar for adult monarchs to feed on, shelter and water. The female is born with eggs, which it lays on the underside of milkweed plant leaves. The eggs hatch in 4-5 days into tiny yellow black and white banded larvae, or caterpillars, which feed only on the milkweed plant. A caterpillar will grow to 2700 times its original weight and develop into the pupa stage, encasing itself and becoming a chrysalis that is suspended from the milkweed plant. Once it emerges from the chrysalis the adult monarch searches for flower nectar, its only food source. It has developed the milkweed acidic and poisonous qualities that discourage predators.

During the monarch migration these butterflies will travel between 1200 and 2800 miles to reach their wintering location. But in November, 2009, three monarchs travelled 40 million miles, at the speed of 17,000 miles per hour. Impossible? Yes...unless you were aboard the Atlantis Space Shuttle.

What can we do, individually or as a group or local government, to help monarchs? Individually, you can plant milkweed plants. It is recommended to choose an area where these plants can grow wild. As a group or organization, work together to create a safe area for milkweed to grow naturally. A local government might provide a protected area for milkweed to become established.

It is best to use milkweed plants that are native to your area. These plants can be purchased at Fiddlehead Creek Native Nursery (518) 632-5505, Chris@fiddleheadcreek.com; or Catskill Native Nursery (845) 626-2758. If you would like to establish a youth program, one idea would be to search for monarch butterfly-raising kits on the Internet.

With spring here, many of us are planning our gardens. Remember those beautiful monarch butterflies—they need our help. Let's do this together, making a difference in their survival and as a reward enjoying the pleasure of watching them in our backyards. Go milkweed—save the monarch butterfly!

Some Native Americans believed that for a wish to come true you have to capture a butterfly, whisper your wish to it and then set it free. The butterfly would carry your wish to heaven, where the Creator could decipher the message and grant the wish.

Diana Buchan,
Birds, Bats, Bugs and Butterflies





The Garden Club of Kinderhook

invites you to join us for

CELEBRATION 90

the 90th anniversary of our club, founded in 1924

Thursday, June 5th 2014 from 1-4pm

Rain or Shine at Reneta Benenati's home

18 Broad Street, Kinderhook

Come festively dressed, in your favorite decade if you wish. The party will include savories and sweets, libations, music, memories, and a parade of hats with prizes in various categories. Please come join our celebratory afternoon.

Celebration 90

1924-2014

June 5th 1-4pm

RSVP by May 27, 2014

by calling Renee 758-7789 or email vived@fairpoint.net

Planning

CELEBRATION 90

Front row: Marilyn Ryan, Sue Chiafullo, Renee Benenati, DeNola Perreten and Pat Knapp.

Back row: Dana Spot, Anne Schomaker, Loyita Woods, Vivian Wachberger, Kate Gulliver, Camille McComb, Tina Lang and Pat Leary.



The Beauty of the Hudson River Valley

is the theme for Greene-Schoharie County Day, scheduled for August 21.



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Participants will gather at 9:30 at Cedar Grove, home of Thomas Cole, father of the Hudson River School of Painting, for a guided tour of the house, Cedar Grove, located at 218 Spring Street, Catskill.

Following the tour everyone will go at 11:15 to the Pegasus Restaurant, 10885 Rte 9W, Coxsackie, for lunch and a Power Point presentation on 21st Century Damsels and Dragons by Larry Federman, education coordinator for three upstate New York Audubon sanctuaries.



Lunch will include fruit and vegetable platters and a cheese tray. There will be a choice of roast beef, chicken picata, or salmon with dill sauce accompanied with salad, broccoli, mashed potatoes, rolls and butter. Dessert is peach cobbler with coffee or tea.

Cost is for both the tour and lunch is \$25. Guests are welcome.

Contact Carole Garvar, County Chairman, at (518) 945-3739 for reservations.

Third District Spring Meeting



Landscape Design

When planning your garden, it is important to review the atmospheric conditions that occur throughout the year. Once you have established the size of your garden it is recommended that you plan on paper the actual plant material you wish to grow, as well as the intent of your garden. For example, if you wish for a meditation garden, cool colors—blue, purple and green—will relax the viewer. If you wish to excite the viewer, warm colors—red, orange and yellow—should predominate.

To prevent water runoff, have trees or shrubs to help retain water. Also, do you want the trees to protect from the hot sun or do you want them to protect from winter wind? This will influence where they are placed in your design.

Antoinette Babb,
Landscape Design

Design

According to the 2007 *Handbook for Flower Shows*, transparency design (p.211) is a creative design which has elements that can viewed through others. The transparent material can be plant material or man-made. By placing plant material in front of and behind the transparent material an increased awareness of depth is visualized. One such design might have gutter guard as the man-made transparent material.

A panel design can have an opaque material or a see-thru material. When an individual is considering man-made see-thru material for a transparency design, also consider a larger piece of the same material being used in a panel design.

Antoinette Babb,
Design

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. Cordially Invite you to join a Garden Club in your District

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State (FGCNYS) is divided into ten geographic Districts, each with a District Director, who serve with elected officers. Also, appointed board members who work to support the objectives of the organization. Officers serve for two year terms.

The FGCNYS is also a member of Central Atlantic Region (CAR), and a Charter Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. a non-profit educational organization. The membership of NGC is composed of 6,218 member garden clubs with 198,595 members in the fifty states. In addition, there are 447 international affiliates, making **NGC the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world.**

Enter to Win! Yearbooks

It's that time of year again! Yearbooks are due to me for evaluation. It's always fun to see all the wonderful things that District III clubs are doing. Please send me **ONE** copy of your club yearbook by June 1, 2014. The criteria for judging are listed on the fgcnys.com web site, as well as gardenclub.org under Awards.

Barbara Campbell
14 Deerpath Dr.
New Paltz, NY.

Blue Creek

does not have a plant sale for the public; rather we have a pre-meeting half-hour plant sale with plants from our gardens that club members purchase from one another for small amounts. Proceeds go to the club. This year our June 12 meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Pruyn House,. Last year I purchased a trumpet vine plant which I've always wanted to try since I love the vibrant orange colors. This was not a successful effort, as the groundhogs (aka woodchucks) that live in my back yard ate up the vine. However ladies' mantle from a club member's garden several years ago, thrives! I've moved bits to other sections in our yard, and those grow well, so I always contribute some in small pots. It's a fun, event for all of us, as we get to try out a new plant or perennial in our yards. At seven p.m. we move on to the club meeting, which, this year will be a presentation on "How to Press Flowers."

One of our summer events is being held in a member's garden. It's called " A Walk in the Garden with Tea," and for fun we're wearing sundresses and hats for the event. We also picnic at the home of another member who gardens on a big scale. A unique hedge is trained to make an arched entrance, and the lawn slopes down to the Mohawk River.

Mary Alice Morgan

Clematis



Clematis's Spring Tea and Lecture in April ,which featured Ken Greene from the Hudson Valley Seed Library, was attended by 120 people. Tea hostesses set a beautiful table. Speaker Ken Greene donated seeds to Clematis chairmen for the new Youth Garden they are creating. Carole Garvar, county chairman, ably headed up the raffle committee. Eight new members joined the club.

On April 26 the club co-sponsored a Growing Responsibly workshop with Margaret Roach, Eli Joseph-Hunter and Carol Clement at the Agroforestry Center in Acra. Following the growing responsibly theme, the May meeting is a visit to Goatfell Farm in Oak Hill where George Weld, owner of the popular Egg restaurant in Brooklyn, will give a tour of his farm, which grows much of the food he serves.



On Saturday, May 24 the club will hold its very popular annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to noon at the Tops Plaza on Route 32 in Greenville. The club offers perennial divisions, annual seedling and houseplants from members' gardens. Long-time shoppers learn to get there early for the best selections. Many of the shoppers become club members.

On June 18 the club will hold its fifth annual garden tour, this year to showcase unique gardens in the Village of Ravena. Tickets will be on sale at the gazebo on Route 143 in Coeymans Landing, starting at 3:45 that day. Clematis thanks the many individuals who helped fill their bus to the Philadelphia Flower Show in March. We had a great day and could not have done it without the support of so many of you.

The Clematis Garden Club is sponsoring two fabulous bus trips, open to everyone. On Thursday, June 5, we are going to NY Botanical Gardens in the Bronx to see their over 50 specialty gardens, including the beautiful rose garden. Also included are the glass conservatory, with over 8000 orchids, rain forest and the world's largest collection of palm trees, and garden touring on the tram. We then move on to Arthur Avenue in the Bronx,

which is known world-wide as "a little bit of Italy," to enjoy the Italian pastry, baked goods, cheeses, delis and restaurants. We finish up with a stop at Adams Fairacre Farms in Newburgh, with its garden center, deli, bakery and sweet shop. The bus cost is \$35, and we are departing in Greenville at 7:00 a.m. with additional pick up in Catskill. The Botanical Garden cost is \$20/\$18.

On Friday, July 11, we are touring Hudson Valley gardens. We leave Greenville at 8:30 a.m., with additional pick up in Catskill, to visit the Blithewood Gardens, located at Bard College, featuring beautiful hedges, flowers and statuary. Next we travel to the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historical Site to stroll the historic walled garden of Beatrix Farrand, celebrating its 100th anniversary. We move on to FDR and Eleanor's rose garden, the Val-Kill Cottage grounds and finish up on the grounds of the Vanderbilt Mansion, featuring over 2000 rose bushes! We will stop at the Adams Fairacre Garden Center on the way home. The bus cost is \$25, and all gardens are free. We would love to have you join us. For info/reservations Marie 239-4000 or Jean 966-4260.

Mary Lou Nahas and Jean Horn

Germantown

Get Wild with the Germantown Garden Club!

This year, the Germantown Garden Club came up with a great theme for 2014: "Gardening Gone Wild." We will be looking at gardening differently and in unconventional ways.

At our March meeting, we featured a presentation on "Wild Harvest: Sharing Mother Nature's Bounty" with author Dina Falconi. Ms. Falconi is a clinical herbalist, avid gardener, teacher, wild-crafter and permaculturalist. She is the author of ***Foraging & Feasting: A Field Guide and Wild Food Cookbook***. Her talk covered what foraging is all about, how to identify plants in the wild (or the weeds in our gardens), and how to gather and cook with them. We learned how foraging offers an adventurous and satisfying way to eat locally and seasonally. A book signing with the author followed. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Germantown Library and was well attended by club members and many people from the general public. We had a full house!



For our April meeting, we had a talk about "Landscaping with Edible Plants and Fruits." Denise Maurer, master gardener with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County and owner/designer of Denise Maurer Interiors, was the speaker. Edible landscaping integrates food plants within an ornamental or decorative garden setting. Using edibles in landscape design can enhance a garden by

providing a unique ornamental component with additional health, aesthetic and economic benefits. Imagine growing lettuces next to your dahlias!

On May 13, we will be going on a field trip to Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring, NY. We will view the large collection of bulbs in bloom! This garden is a hidden treasure. Check out their website if you don't know about this fantastic garden: www.stonecrop.org. Join us if you want to go.

One of our biggest fundraisers for the year will take place on May 17. Our annual plant sale will have plants donated from our members, plus nursery-grown perennials, annuals, and herbs. Proceeds from this event raise money for many of our philanthropic projects. Please stop by if you are in the area. We are open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The sale is located at Palatine Park in Germantown.

For our May 20 meeting, we will present a talk about "Biodiversity in the Hudson River Wetlands," given by Erik Kiviat, PhD, executive director and co-founder of Hudsonia, author, and certified wetland scientist. He has studied the plants and animals of the region for 40 years and has reported on wetland ecology and other subjects. Dr. Kiviat will give a talk about the biodiversity we encounter in our Germantown wetland areas. Biodiversity is the variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem. His talk will cover the value of biodiversity in nature communities, how to recognize habitats of ecological significance, and how to protect important resources through planning and site design. The talk will begin at noon and take place at the Palatine Parsonage, 52 Maple Ave., Germantown. Join us for this interesting look at plant biodiversity specific to our area.

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



Karen Janson

Greenbush



In March our club displayed photos, awards and membership information in the lobby of the East Greenbush Library, and in April the display was moved to the East Greenbush town hall. Our club presented two very informative programs at the East Greenbush Library. In March the speaker was Angie Tompkins from Schenectady County CCE who spoke on "Calming the Wildlife," and in April, Doug Pratt from Rensselaer County CCE spoke on "Advanced Vegetable Gardening."

Quite a few of our members attended the Capital District Garden and Flower Show and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Spring Garden Day in March. Our annual plant sale will be held on Saturday May 17 at the Elks Club Pavilion in East Greenbush, and our club picnic will be held on Friday June 6 at the home of Joan Giordano. There are no "official" club meetings over the summer, but a few road trips are being planned.

Diane Madden

Hugh Plat

In April, the Hugh Plat Garden Club met at Gade Farm in Altamont for a pansy basket workshop. Amy (in the hat), the plant person, helped us to choose and plant lovely moss planters. She gave us a history of pansies. We had a tour of the property and saw many things emerging into the spring air!

In March, we toured the Pine Bush Discovery Center of Albany County. There was a great presentation on the history, geography and geology of the Pine Bush. We learned about the flora, native plants and different species that inhabit it, especially the Karner Blue Butterfly.



We will be having workshops for sugared violets and also teacup flower arranging. We are already planning the decorating of the Schenectady Historical Society for the annual Fall Walk About in September.

Jackie De Santi

Pine Plains

Our club has a number of upcoming activities. Following our May 17th plant sale we will plant window boxes and town barrels on May 22nd, and do a cemetery planting on May 24th. On May 26th we will make Memorial Day sprays and dedicate a tree in honor of Janet Adams and Fran Bradley.

Two trips are scheduled for June, the first to Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring on the 5th and the second to the Climbery on the 19th. July will also feature two trips: to Falls Village Nursery on the 10th and to Alice Platt Gardens on the 24th.

Victoria LoBrutto

Schoharie Valley

Schoharie Valley Garden Club will hold a garden tour called "Blooms In Our Valley Garden Tour and Tea" on Saturday, June 28 (rain date Sunday, June 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10, available at the Schoharie Free Library that day or from any garden club member. A tea will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the home of Marie Muller (also a garden on the tour) for all ticketholders. The tour will consist of 6-8 local residential gardens in the Schoharie Valley. Maps will be included with the ticket.

Anne Bielawski

Shawangunk

At the club's annual plant sale May 10, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., corner of Main and Canal Streets in Ellenville, club members help customers make their selections and disseminate information regarding plant culture.

On August 8 (2 p.m.-8 p.m.) and 9 (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) the club will present a Standard Flower Show, "The Glory of the Garden, at St. Andrew's Church, 137 S. Main St. (Rte. 209) in Ellenville.

Also on August 9 the club will participate in the Wild Blueberry Festival on downtown Canal St. in Ellenville, a town-wide annual event, which runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The club will have a booth selling mums, member-grown plants and arrangements. Members also dispense gardening information.

The club has two open to the public meetings each year and has been quite successful in garnering new members through this venue. The next such meeting will be on August 4, with a program on Bonsai growing.

Helene Morris

Towne and Country

Sue Pezzola, Master Gardener from Albany County Cooperative Extension, spoke to Towne and Country Garden Club members about container gardening. She discussed container choices, plant foods and appropriate plant materials.

Jackie DiSanti



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.

One effect of having a bout with atrial fibrillation—or AFib, as those of us who've learned more about this condition that we ever wanted to know affectionately call it, is that for awhile you don't feel like doing anything remotely strenuous. This is good for sedentary activities like putting newsletters together and writing mystery novels, but not at all helpful for spring gardening clean-up. Fortunately, my energy level is climbing back to something approaching normal.

I want to thank you all for the many submissions you've sent for this issue of the *Digest*. My goal, perhaps a pipe dream, is to some day put together an issue including material from every one of our clubs. That's progressing, but there's still a ways to go.

There's so much coming up now that spring is finally here. I have a nagging suspicion that someone, somewhere has sent me a file listing their club's activities which I've misplaced—if so I apologize in advance.

Maryann

Coming Up

May	Various plant sales; see p. 2
June 2-4	State Symposium, R.I.T. Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY
June 4	Columbia County Day Luncheon, Kozel's Restaurant, Ghent, see p. 3
June 5	The Garden Club of Kinderhook's Celebration 90, home of Reneta Benenati, 18 Broad St., Kinderhook, see p. 5
	Clematis bus trip to Bronx Botanic Garden, see p.9
June 18	Clematis tour of Ravena gardens, see p. 9
June 28	Schoharie Valley garden tour, see p. 11
July 11	Clematis tour of Hudson Valley gardens. see p. 9
July 15	Deadline for August Digest copy
August 8-9	Shawangunk SFS, see p. 12
August 21	Greene-Schoharie County Day, see p. 6