

For The Holidays

On December 1 members of the **Athens Community Garden Club** will meet to make Holiday swags to be hung that day at the Athens Office, D.R. Evarts Library (2nd St), the north and south village signs (Rt. 385), the sign on Union St. and the Community Center (1st St.)

Jill Blitzer

The **Blue Creek Garden Club** has a Greens Show at the Pruy House, a restored country home circa 1830 in the hamlet of Newtonville, which has a connection to the Dutch heritage of New York's Capital District. Casparus Pruy was a land agent for Stephen Van Rensselaer. This year's theme is "Say It With Music." The Pruy House is open to the public free of charge for our Greens Show on Saturday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 4 from 12:30 to 4 p.m.. There is also a Holiday Boutique featuring freshly made table arrangements, wreaths and miscellaneous items. Decorations remain through Christmas. The Pruy House is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. The address is 207 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, which is near Exit 5 of the Thruway.



Priscilla Johnson

The **Germantown Garden Club** will present a children's Gingerbread House Contest at its annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, December 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Old Parsonage, 52 Maple Ave., Germantown. Come see the masterpieces that these young artists have created from edible materials. In addition, there will be a sale of hand-decorated, one-of-a-kind, fresh wreaths and table arrangements made by garden club members. There will also be a Holiday Crafts Boutique with ornaments and holiday items to purchase.

Director's Message

I gave much of the following report at the last State Board Meeting in Rochester. The information was gathered from yearbooks that clubs forwarded to me. As I reviewed the information, I was amazed to see a wide range of programs that clubs in our District present to their members. There were some unusual programs that would pique interest. Some of these have already taken place and some will be presented in the next few weeks.

The Third District had clubs that were involved with their county fairs. The four clubs of Columbia County had as their theme: "Be a Kid Again." Claverack, Germantown, Greenport and Kinderhook did a superb job of educating the public in well-designed booths, and a coloring book by Kinderhook was distributed.

The Greene-Schoharie clubs have focused on helping their members and community in the aftermath of the flood devastation. They have contacted many organizations and have contributed cash, toiletries, blankets, flashlights and other needed items. Our immediate Past Director Marie Muller's home had 4 feet of water in her living room and kitchen and has had major damage.

Many clubs tend their community gardens for Fall clean-ups. Program topics for the Garden Club of Kinderhook include native and non-native hydrangeas, the Hudson Valley Seed Library and maple syrup made from our state tree, *Acer saccharum*. The

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Proceeds from the sale benefit the club's local high school scholarship fund and other community donations and projects. For more information on this event, please call Fran Bufi, (518) 537-4868.

Karin Janson

The **Garden Club of Kinderhook** will decorate Lindenwald, the home of President Martin Van Buren for its annual Candlelight Tour, on Friday, December 2 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Lindenwald is located at 1013 Old Post Road, Kinderhook. Reservations for the tour are required; call (518) 758-9689. The club also decorates the James Vanderpoel House, 16 Broad Street, Kinderhook, for its annual Holiday Boutique; call (518) 758-1627 for dates and hours.



The theme for the **Guilderland Garden Club's** annual open house at the Mynderse-Frederick House, Rte. 146, Guilderland Center, is "It's Christmas...Naturally." This free Greens Show is co-sponsored by the Guilderland Historical Society. Hours are Friday, December 2, 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, December 3, 1-6 p.m.; Sunday, December 4, 1-5 p.m. There will be entertainment and refreshments throughout the show and handcrafted decorations will be available for sale. Non-perishable donations will be collected for the Regional Food Bank.



Merril-Lee Lenegar

The **Hugh Plat Garden Club** will decorate the Schenectady County Historical Society building at 25 Washington Ave., Schenectady.



The four mantles in the building will be decorated with greens, bows, pine cones and dried flowers. We will place wreaths on the front and back doors and wrap the banister with pine roping adorned with velvet bows and baby's breath. Poinsettia

H. Gilbert Harlow Club will create 25 floral centerpieces for the City Mission Thanksgiving Dinner. Guilderland Club will use their handmade ornaments to decorate the Mynderse-Fredrick Historic House for the Holidays. Floral Designer Leah Kennell will demonstrate Holiday arrangements for Community Garden Club of Marlborough members.

Athens Community Garden Club hosts a garden designer with ideas for best-suited shrubs to plant. Saugerties Society of Little Gardens did fall plantings at Exit 20 of the Thruway and made corsages and boutonnieres to be distributed at the annual Mum Festival. Shawangunk programs include "Grasses in Landscape Design" and "How to Brighten a Winter Windowsill." Claverack Garden Club honored our veterans by creating red, white and blue arrangements and donating them to public spaces. The Garden Study Club of Albany has Cathy Miller as a presenter. The Catskill Garden Club will have a demonstration on boxwood wreaths, and Blue Creek Garden Club had an interesting program on "Honey Bees in the Garden."

The Tongore Garden Club's potluck supper featured their sponsored DEC camper as guest. Germantown Garden Club members journeyed to the Hawthorn Valley Farm for a "Taste of the Farm." Clematis Garden Club's activities include a Cornhusk Doll Workshop and creating a garden themed scarecrow for their Civic Beautification Committee. Cocksackie Garden Club has added plants to their Pocket Park. Greenport Garden Club hosted the recipient of the Youth Environmental Camp grant who attended Camp Colby. Garden Explorers had a program on "Fairy Houses" in October; November features an evergreen arrangements workshop. Hillside Acres Garden Club had a Fall Food Festival and a pro-

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gram on dried florals. The club celebrated its 60th anniversary in October by sharing projects and having floral designs by two judges.

Our Fall Meeting, titled "Autumn Magic," was held October 27 at the Holiday Inn in Kingston. It featured a repeat visit by Carl Lemanski, whose presentation was enjoyed by many at one of our previous meetings. Those who attended also enjoyed visiting three vendors, an Emporium, the benefit drawing and ways and means tables, and exhibits.

At the meeting, material was distributed for each District club president. Included was information on scholarships, protocol, and water conservation. A 14-page packet about "Explore the Wonders," the N.G.C. Convention in Buffalo in May, 2012, was given to county chairmen for distribution to their clubs. Also available was a calendar with dates of future events. Barbara Campbell gave a presentation about the convention.

Registration went smoothly, thanks to the efforts of Registrar Yetta Teo and her staff from the Greenport Garden Club. Six members of the Garden Club of Kinderhook created autumn centerpieces in amber-colored glass pumpkins. Counties brought items for the benefit drawing, and Olive Felio and Camille McComb stepped in to help out. Beverly Kallner and Jean Smith manned the Emporium, and First Assistant Director Marilyn Ryan was everywhere and much in demand in her job as Coordinator. THANK YOU TO ALL!!!

As we approach the Holiday season, I can say with confidence that Third District is well and thriving.

Renee Benvenuti

plants will be placed at the foot of the newel post. For further information call (518) 355-2354.

Jean Mastriani



Ulster Garden Club is helping to decorate the Fred J. Johnston House Museum for the Holidays. The museum will be open to the public on Saturday December 10 and Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Johnston House Museum is located on the corner of Wall and Main Streets in Kingston.

Greetings

You are cordially invited to
 Renee's home for a cup of tea.
 On December 17 or 18 come and see
 the Director's decorated tree.
 A thousand different ornaments
 will sparkle and glow
 Fragrant greens with gold accents
 on mantels will show
 Tiny white lights and candles will
 enhance the scene
 The Midas Touch will be this year's
 Holiday theme.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
 Brick House with Green Shutters
 18 Broad St. (Rte. 9), Kinderhook, NY

Club News



Hillandale Garden Club

The club recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. Demonstrating arrangements at the celebration were members Lillian Walsh (above) and Audrey Christman (right).



Schoharie Valley Garden Club



The Schoharie Valley Garden Club held its most recent meeting at 10 a.m. at the Conesville Fire House due to the devastation at the Heritage House in Schoharie (our normal meeting place). We discussed our upcoming Christmas Luncheon at Howe Caves on December 7th. After the meeting we enjoyed our bag lunches, desserts and beverages provided by our hospitality committee and a fun time together making holiday decorations for our homes. Each member brought her own container, greens and other items which were shared to design the decorations.

Greenport Garden Club



Enjoying a June anniversary celebration at the home of Marge Groll were: First Row: Charlie Dillhoff, Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Sue Dillhoff, Dot Brown, Marge Groll. Second Row: Cecelia Sinclair, Cynthia Atkinson, Lynn Kowalski, Judy Zink, Carolyn West, Kathy Bucholsky, Carolyn Kibler, Doris Moore, Joan Conner, Yetta Teo, Agnes LaSalvia

Greenport Garden Club received first prize for its booth display in the Columbia County Fair's garden clubs' exhibit representing the fair's theme "To Be A Kid Again." The design "A Tea Party in the Garden" displayed a variety of flowering bushes and plants staged creatively with backdrops and toys representing the magic of childhood.



The Garden Club of Kinderhook

(Right) Club members enjoyed the activities and presentations at Third District's Fall Meeting, "Autumn Magic." Below: In September the club and the Friends of the Kinderhook Memorial Library sponsored a floral design workshop on the library lawn.



Awards - presented at "Autumn Magis"

Third District Awards

Civic Achievement: GC of Kinderhook - Van Buren Gravesite

Flower Show Schedules: Community GC of Marlborough, Germantown GC

Flower Shows: Germantown GC

Educational Exhibit: GC of Kinderhook

Environmental Education: GC of Kinderhook

Historic Preservation: Greenbush GC - St. Michael the Archangel Church; GC of Kinderhook - Steepletop Gardens

Horticultural Therapy: GC of Kinderhook, Greenbush GC

Landscape Design: Greenbush GC - Edith Dalziel Landscape Citation; GC of Kinderhook - Chatham Library

National Garden Week: Columbia County garden clubs

Preservation of Beauty: Greenbush GC - Fort Crailo Historic Site

Publications: Clematis GC - newsletter; GC of Kinderhook - coloring book, brochure, newsletter; Germantown GC - newsletter; Greenbush GC - brochure, promotion, public relations

Yearbooks: *Class I:* First - Saugerties Society of Little Gardens; Second - H. Gilbert Harlow; Third - Coxsackie GC; HM - Claverack GC
Class II: First - Greenport GC; Second - Blue Creek GC; Third - Garden Explorers; HM - Catskill GC and Schoharie Valley GC
Class III: First - Clematis GC; Second - Germantown GC; Third Community GC of Athens

Class IV: First - Shawangunk GC; Second - GC of Kinderhook; Third - New Paltz GC

Youth Horticulture Education: Columbia County garden clubs

New York State Awards

Membership: 25 years - Catskill GC; 50 years - Woodstock GC and Clematis GC; 60 years - Hillendale GC; 80 years - Little GC of Kingston; 82 years - Shawangunk GC; 83 years - Saugerties Society of Little Gardens; 86 years - Community GC of Marlborough; 87 years - GC of Kinderhook.

Yearbooks: *Class I,* First - Saugerties Society of Little Gardens; *Class II,* HM - Greenport GC; *Class III,* HM - Clematis GC; *Class IV,* HM - Shawangunk GC

Youth: Poetry Project for Youth - Athens Community GC (150 Citations)

Happy
Holidays

Brief Overview on Applying for Awards

The purpose of the awards program is

1. to encourage clubs to participate in a variety of activities as members of the Federation
2. to recognize efforts of clubs and individuals
3. to encourage enjoyment.

The award year is January 1st to December 31st. Most applications for awards must be sent directly to the District Awards Chairman. There are three exceptions: District Yearbook Chairman and District Youth Chairman receive entries directly, and Pressbook entries are sent directly to the State Pressbook Chairman by January 25.

Timeline:

September 1 - clubs notify the District Awards Chairman of their intent to apply for a particular award.

October 1 - All completed applications and necessary information are received by the District Awards Chairman. All entries are reviewed by the Awards Panel.

November 1 - All eligible entries are to be mailed to the various State chairmen by the District Awards Chairman.

This may seem like a lot of information, but things are actually easier. Here's why:

The application for awards form has been made more concise. To apply for an award, all that is necessary is the application form, only three pages, printed on one side, listing data required for that particular award and photos, if necessary.

Books of evidence are no longer required, except for flower shows, and clubs have the option of sending flower show books of evidence electronically.

All of the information mentioned here is listed in:

1. Third District Awards Manual
2. FGCNYS Awards Manual
3. National Garden Clubs, Inc. Awards Manual
4. The Fall issue of the National Gardener

For questions and additional information, contact District Awards Chairman Patricia Blundell at (845) 246-3611 or floralartistry01@aol.co.



We come from the earth, we return to the earth,
and in between we garden ~ *Anonymous*

Xeriscape Gardening

Xeriscape gardening was developed in Denver, CO, at a time when there were severe water shortages, and it is now one of the most accepted landscape practices in the western part of the U.S. In fact, some SW cities require that all new landscaping be xeriscape!

The term xeriscape is derived from the Greek word *Xeros* which means dry. It refers to a landscape that uses little supplemental water. Another way to look at it is water conservation through landscaping

Xeriscape does not refer to dry, barren landscaping, nor does it mean no maintenance. It is not a garden style or design. It is a concept of water conservation that can be applied to landscapes of any style - traditional, Japanese, cottage, formal or natural.

The Seven Principles of Xeriscaping

Planning and Design: create zones for each type of water use and group plants by these needs (oasis zone for high water needs).

Water Efficient Plant Material: choose plants that are recognized to survive in low water conditions for your region.

Soil Improvement: soil testing, amendments such as compost, etc., help to build up soil and its water retention.

Efficient Irrigation Systems: Use drip irrigation.

Use of Mulch: very important for water conservation, plants benefit greatly from it during dry periods.

Appropriate Turf: reduces erosion, provides cooling effect, prevents sun glare.

Appropriate Maintenance: pruning, weed and pest management (IPM), checking irrigation systems, etc.

*from a pamphlet by the Master Gardeners of
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County*

Landis Arboretum

Landis Arboretum, located in Schoharie County, consists of 548 acres overlooking the Schoharie Valley. It was established in 1951 by Fred Lape, who aimed to grow every species of woody plant that would thrive in the area. He found trunks, limbs and leaves of trees fascinating.

Levan Loveland, banker and financial advisor, helped set up the arboretum. Fred kept historical documentation of the plantings. George Landis, a friend, colleague and plant collector, whom the arboretum is named after, left the arboretum enough money to set it up as an educational institute. There are programs going on throughout the year. Along with many varieties of trees, there is a flower garden in front of the farmhouse with many perennials remaining from the original garden.

One event that is well-attended each year is the spring plant sale. More information on Landis can be found on the web at: ladisarboretum.org. While you search the site, you may be interested in a recipe for deer repellent which the present arborist uses.

Janet Wierzchowski

You know you're addicted to gardening if ...

You dumpster-dive for discarded bulbs after commercial landscapers remove them to plant annuals.

You take every single person who enters your house on a "garden tour".

You look at your child's sandbox and see a raised bed.

You can't bear to thin seedlings and throw them away.

You scold total strangers who don't take care of their potted plants.

You know how many bags of fertilizer / potting soil / mulch your car will hold.

You drive around the neighborhood hoping to score extra bags of leaves for your compost.



CALENDAR

2011

December 17 & 18 2011 Christmas Tea at Director's decorated home 18 Broad St. (Rt. 9),
Kinderhook - 1:00-4:00 p.m.

2012

January 1 Happy New Year 2012!!!!!!

January 15 February Digest copy due

January 25 Deadline for Pressbooks

February 15 February Digest online at fgcny.com

February 24-26 "New York in Bloom," - New York State Museum
Madison Ave. Albany

March 4-11 Philadelphia Flower Show
"Islands of Aloha" Philadelphia, Pa.

March 15, 2012 Third District Board Meeting - McNary Center.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6 Sylvester St., Kinderhook
10 a.m..

Space Available - Free!

Unlike its hard-copy counterpart, the online *Digest* is not restricted to a set number of pages, and color pictures do not run up the printing bill, so why not share your club's events and projects with other clubs in our District? And perhaps beyond - there are no restrictions on who can visit us online. There's also plenty of room for gardening tips, verse, humor, discussion forums, more. We'd love to hear from you.

Copy should be emailed (junco@fairpoint.net) or snail-mailed (2300 Spruce Drive, Valatie, NY 12184) to Maryann Weber. Or call her at (518) 758-7189. Issues will continue to appear in mid February, May, August and November, and submissions should arrive before the end of the preceding months.