



Published by the
**Federated Garden Clubs
of New York State, Inc.**
231 Clubs - 8,105 Members
104F Covent Gardens
Guilderland, NY 12084
Tel. and FAX: 518-869-6311
www.fgcny.com
Office hours:
Tuesday through Thursday,
9:00am to 4:00pm

President:
Patricia Wania
19 Pine Orchard Road
Hague, NY 12836-2030

Central Atlantic Region
Director:
Mary Warshauer
57 Buena Vista Avenue
Rumson, NJ 07760-1202

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
President:
Linda G. Nelson
543 Lakefair Place N.
Keizer, OR 97303-3590

Editor:
Robert J. Bauer
Tel. 917-648-2135
rbauer623@hotmail.com

President's Message



One of the most thought provoking assignments for a new president is to develop a theme for the term. In thinking about my theme, which in effect states the focus of my administration, you as garden club members were most important. Without you, nothing of our great works is possible. However, individually no one person can achieve the positive impact which FGCNYS has had on our world. Therefore, I began to think how each garden club member is linked to their club, the club to their district, their district to the State and the State to the Region and finally to National Garden Clubs. That link or bond is the power which results in huge influences and positive impacts on our world. The activities in our communities, towns, states, regions and nation are linked together to insure the protection of our environment. We are able to accomplish so much through the strength in that linkage. I also see the linkage of the past to the present as we plan our future. Goals and missions written at the start of our organization are still meaningful today. We learn from the mistakes and lessons of the past and benefit from the forward thinking of those who have preceded us. My goal then is to make these links stronger. My focus is you, the individual gardener, as you strive toward your goals. My mission is to strengthen the links which will make those objectives become a reality for the planet. My theme is, "Linking Community Gardeners to Protect Our World". Join me in this endeavor and take pride in all that you accomplish to make this a better world.

Patricia Wania
President FGCNYS

Upcoming Events

March 16-18 Annual Meeting/ Installation of Officers,
Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, Albany
April 15-16 LD Course, Chappaqua, NY
April 29-May 1 District VII Flower Show School Course II,
Rochester, NY
May 12-18 NGC Convention Louisville, Kentucky
Sept 15-19 NGC Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO
Sept. 16-18 District VII Flower Show School Course III,
Rochester, NY
Oct. 6-8 LD Course III, Chappaqua, NY
October 25-27 CAR Meeting, Gettysburg, Pa.

**2016 - CAR Regional Conference
Hosted by FGCNYS
October 26-30 2016**

**"Treasures of New York"
Standard Petite Flower Show**

Visit us on the WEB

For more information about FGCNYS visit the state web site. It is updated on a daily basis and is the most complete and current accumulation of knowledge regarding our organization.

www.fgcny.com

91st Annual Meeting and Installation

March 16-18, 2015

The Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY

Please join us for this special event as we install our new President Pat Wania, Officers and District Directors. This will be a great opportunity to get to know other members of our Federation and learn how we are

"Linking Community Gardeners to Protect Our World".

Additional information and a registration form can be found on our website or by contacting Monica Hansen, Chairman at (716) 667-1434 or by email at johnmonica@Verizon.net



FGCNYS News

Nomination Committee: The following individuals have been selected by our nominating committee as the new state of officers for the 2015-17 term and will be voted on at the upcoming Annual Meeting in March.

Patricia Wania, President
 Monica Hansen, 1st Vice President
 Lucille Bauer, 2nd Vice President
 Victoria Bellias, 3rd Vice President
 Laurene Tompkins, Recording Secy.
 Diane Schlipphack, Corresponding Secy.
 Carol Anderson, Treasurer
 Joyce Lyle, Ass't Treasurer

Did You Know....?

As a supplement to the Did you Know email sent periodically by 2nd Vice President Tony Antes this section will provide answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) and other items of interest to our members. Please submit any question or recommendations you have to Tony Antes at 607-775-3831 or via Email at aantest@stny.rr.com .

- The mission of our national organization is to provide education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its membership to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.
- Life Membership has many benefits and is a great way to honor a member. The \$100 membership donation goes to the FGCNYS Life Membership Fund and supports scholarships, education and awards.
- Did you know that the Ames Tool Company has partnered with NGC and is providing \$5,000 of tools between now and October to clubs doing civic landscaping projects? The NGC website provides clubs with the procedures to apply for these tools.



**By Lucille Bauer, State World Gardening Chairman
 718-967-3842 – Lucillebauer@hotmail.com**

WATER FOR SOUTH SUDAN (WFSS) began drilling in 2005 and as of February 3, 2015, a total of 229 wells have been drilled. WFSS is committed to bring access to clean, safe water and hygiene education to the people of South Sudan. The generosity of our members for this World Gardening project has raised, at this time, \$16,700 for our donation for 2014.

With the support of our members, the WFSS goals for the 2014-15 season are to: Drill up to 40 new wells; train men & women in hygiene practices in each village where they work; continue the United Peace & Dev. Project; and begin a formal monitoring & evaluation process of the wells drilled.

The donations of our FGCNYS members, clubs and districts make a "WORLD OF DIFFERENCE" to the people of South Sudan. Thank you.

- Membership lists are sent from the State office annually with the dues collection notices which are expected to be sent during the first week of March this year.
- Photographs are now included in flower shows. Many clubs are now including a photography section in their shows. NGC is sponsoring a "Membership Photography Contest" Entries must be received by March 15, 2015. Details are on national web site.

District News

District I - District One's Flower show, "Baker Street Mysteries" will be held on June 6th.

District II - Second District has completed the four sessions of Flower Show School and now has fifteen new Student Judges who are looking forward to fulfilling the final requirements for accreditation. Second District has also completed its first Horticulture Day of seminars by renown speakers and is looking forward to its next horticulture event.

District III - The Guilderland club used a middle school art class to design the cover of their new yearbook. All of the covers submitted were framed and hung in a public room of the local library. The club held a party honoring the children who submitted the covers and the winners were announced.

District VII - November was our 32nd Annual Candlelight Tour and it was most successful. Additional tickets had to be ordered the day before because of such community interest. Our upcoming Annual Meeting and Installation of officers will include our District Flower Show "Rochester Rocs!". "It's no joke" will permeate the theme on Wednesday, April 1st.

District VIII -The Holland GC dedicated two Blue Star Memorial Markers in the fall, one in Holland NY and another in South Wales, NY.



Bloodroot

by Auralie Logan

This is the time of year when we begin to dream about spring flowers. In this most peculiar season, who knows what spring will bring or when. Perhaps, then, we should begin to enjoy our spring flowers in our imagination.

One of the earliest, and one of the loveliest, is Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), the only species in its genus in the poppy family (Papaveraceae). The blossoms of Bloodroot are dramatic – one of the largest of the early flowers at 1 ½ to 2 inches of dazzling white. Each bloom stem is wrapped snugly in a single leaf, which appears to shelter it from the chilly spring winds and showers. The blooms have 8 to 12 petals, radially arranged around a cluster of brilliant yellow anthers. Pollinators are attracted by these features, expecting nectar, but they are disappointed, for there is none. However, in another clever procreational twist, the seeds are spread by a process called myrmecochory. The seeds have a fleshy organ called an elaiosome that attracts ants. The ants take the seeds to their nests, where they eat the elaiosomes and put the seeds in their nest debris, where they are protected until they germinate. They also get the added bonus of a growing medium made richer by the ant nest debris.

Bloodroot blossoms last only a few days before the petals are stripped by winds or rain. The large, kidney-shaped leaves, however, are easy to spot until midsummer. The short blooming season is probably the reason that Bloodroot has not been more widely adopted by gardeners. An unusual double form was discovered in the wilds of Michigan around 1950, and was taken to the Netherlands where it is propagated for export to this country as *S. canadensis multiplex* or *S. multiflora*.

Despite its short bloom season, Bloodroot makes a nice groundcover in woodland gardens, especially if interplanted with ferns. It is found from Canada through the mid-central states, from the East coast to the mid-west. It likes soil rich in humus, but is not especially particular as to Ph. It prefers a moderately moist partially shaded site, but will tolerate a fairly wide range of conditions. Under favorable conditions, the plant will reseed and establish a colony, but it is never invasive.

Although the flowers are brilliantly white, Bloodroot's name refers to its orangey-red rootstock and sap. The thick rhizomes contain a distinct red latex which has been used in numerous ways.

Native American tribes mixed the sap with animal fat or other substances to use as face paint. Others used it to dye baskets or clothing. Medicine men observed that when injured, the plant "bled" red sap like blood and decided it should be good for ulcers and skin afflictions. A London physician in the mid-nineteenth century learned of this and concocted a treatment for skin cancers consisting of bloodroot, zinc chloride, flour and water. This treatment was extensively used for a while, but then fell out of use. In the 1960s it was revived, and is still sometimes used for minor skin cancers and polyps.

Bloodroot was also considered valuable for a number of other remedies. In addition to various skin treatments, it has been used

to induce abortions, repel insects, for sore throats and coughs, and as a narcotic. It is toxic if ingested in large amount, but is said to be so foul-tasting that it would be hard for anyone to consume a fatal amount. Some people find that the sap causes a skin irritation similar to poison ivy.

The most outstanding modern use has been a dental product. In 1985 Vipont Pharmaceuticals, a Colorado company, began marketing Viadent toothpaste and mouthwash, both containing an extract of Bloodroot, and said to be valuable in preventing the development of plaque. The American Dental Association declared the extract, called sanguinarine, to be effective, and the surgeon general of the Army Dental Corps was quoted as calling it "the best thing that's happened since fluoride."

Here, of course, is where problems arise. Because of these commercial uses, Bloodroot has been collected, illegally, in its natural habitat. It is protected by law in New York, as in most states, and is on the FGCNYS Protected Plant List but poaching does occur. A website of Virginia State Parks describes efforts to provide more protection for this and a few other species, ginseng, black cohosh, and goldenseal, all of which are threatened in that area. All of these are available online, and there is no way of knowing how they were collected.

In the mean time, let's look forward to this herald of spring. Remember "If winter comes...can spring be far behind."

In Memorium

Please keep the following recently deceased members of the FGCNYS family in your thoughts and prayers. Although we cannot list all deceased garden club members in this column they are all in our prayers and are all acknowledged by our State Chaplain.

Jeanne Beryl Metz - State President 2007-09, Former Director of District II, NGC Master Judge. Long term member of FGCNYS, CAR and NGC Boards and one of the few 5 Star NGC Members.

Mary Maybee -State President 83-85, Former Director of District 3; Co-chairman of the National Convention held in Rochester, NY; NGC Master Judge; FGCNYS Office volunteer; FGCNYS Awards Chairman.

Mary Piraino - Long term FGCNYS Board Member, Garden Therapy Chairman, Former Director of District I. NGC Master Judge; Floral Designer, Horticulturalist, District I Judges Council Chairman. Former Florist.

Elizabeth "Betty" Hain - Life Member, FGCNYS Board member for over 20 yrs. NGC Flower Show Judge, Horticulture Judge and design consultant. A very valuable member.