

Information to share with your members
Discussed at our FGCNYS September 12, 2018 Board Meeting

NGC's PLANT AMERICA program is available again this year. The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial support for new or existing club projects all across the United States. The first grants will be given during the 2017-2019 administration. Our Federated Garden Clubs may apply for funds up to \$1,000.00 for the direct expenses of projects. The deadline for applications is October 15, 2018 and recipients of grants will be notified, and all money will be awarded by January 31, 2019. Projects must be completed by February 28, 2020 and final reports are due by April 1, 2020. I spoke with the Chairman of this project and while she could not go into specifics, the winning entries were those that had good participation from garden club members and benefitted the community the most.

DEC camp reminder that Ann Bloom will be asking you to be on the lookout for a candidate to send to DEC camp. We are again providing the opportunity for one child from each District to attend a DEC camp in 2019. Each District is asked to provide the name of one candidate. Please provide Ann with the name of this child, along with one alternate, just in case. Please don't tell that child (unless your District has the funds to send that child) he/she is the alternate because chances are they won't be going to the camp - we just want a back-up rather than obtaining a slot for a child and then not have someone able to attend. There is information and our application form on our fgcnys.com website. Deadline is November 30, 2018.

Amazon Smile Program - If you order from Amazon, please order via the following link which may give some money back to FGCNYS, Inc. You need to sign into this particular site rather than the regular Amazon website. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-1663223>

Start snapping now in preparation for the first annual National Wildlife Federation Garden for Wildlife™ Photo Contest, launching September 10, 2018! We know you all garden for wildlife! And, you could probably make great use of \$1,000! Our Partner, National Wildlife Federation, has invited our members to enter their first annual Garden for Wildlife™ Photo Contest, open for entries from September 10th - October 12th, 2018. For complete information please see our fgcnys.org website.

College Scholarships - Jane Madis, our FGCNYS Scholarship Chair is beginning to work with colleges for this year's scholarship applicants. Our FGCNYS Scholarship is currently \$1,500.00 and we offer three scholarships while NGC has a \$4,000.00 scholarship available. Both scholarship applications are funneled through Jane and her committee. We have adjusted our application to reflect the same guidelines as the NGC scholarship application so folks qualifying for ours will also be considered for the NGC \$4,000.00 scholarship. Our revised, interactive scholarship application is on our fgcnys.com website under forms and applications. Please share this information with your members. Please contact Jane Madis at janemadis@gmail.com with any questions.

Planting the seeds of membership - We have received quite a few new members from clubs since our dues rosters were sent out so I'd like to revisit the challenge we had earlier about **planting the seeds of membership in our garden clubs** and ask that we all make it our goal to have a net increase of four new members, per club, between now and April 1, 2019. For those Clubs whose membership is capped, we will include them in this challenge by saying that those Clubs will be recognized if they retain the membership at their cap level.

Kellogg's™ feeding reading, scholastic book offer - Think this will be particularly interesting to those participating in our FGCNYS Family Outreach Project. I saw a reference about this on our weekly grocery store flyer - if you go to <https://www.kelloggsfamilyrewards.com> you will see information about a free scholastic book offer. If you buy any participating Kellogg's project between now and the end of September you are able to receive a free children's book. These purchases are normal things like cereal, so it may be something you are interested in checking out.

Additional information - Youth Contests

NGC has three children's contests and further information may be found on the nationalgardenclubs.org website. All NGC Contest applications are submitted to our FGCNYS first and then then forwarded by us to NGC. The person that these NGC entries are sent to is Kimberly Paone, 24 Larkspur Drive, Ballston Spa NY 12020

- Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest due to Kimberly Paone by January 14, 2019. This contest is for grades K - 9.
- High School Essay Contest concerning "The Impact of Bottled Water on the Environment and the Water Supply" for Grades 9 - 12 due to Kimberly Paone by January 14, 2019.
- National Poetry Contest Due to Kimberly Paone by January 14, 2019
"Pop Goes the Seed" Grades - K-9

All contest information for these three NGC youth contests are on the web site - gardenclub.org in "Youth Contest". Please follow the guide lines for each. Child's name, Age, Address, Clubs Name & Contact, Grade, School, and Teacher. This should be on the back lower right side. The poster contest has a printable label.

Again, all entries for the NGC Contests are sent to: Kimberly Paone, 24 Larkspur Drive, Ballston Spa NY 12020

FGCNYS Poetry contest - Information about our FGCNYS Poetry contest, "How Does Your Garden Grow?" is on the attached page. Let's make a concerted effort to surprise Barb Millington by sending in a large amount of entries this year. She prefers them via email to: bmillington@nycap.rr.com with FGCNYS Poetry contest in the subject line, but her home address is 546 County Rte. 76, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-7330 Some of these deadlines seem a long way away, but time goes so quickly I wanted to get you all involved in this as soon as I received the information.

Barbara suggests taking time to find schools other than public schools. There are many private schools, church schools, and home schools that don't have the demands that the public schools do. And, don't forget grandchildren can enter even if they don't live in your district.