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Director's Message

Wasn't it great to see so many at the Fall District Meeting at Birch Hill? Don't forget that the Spring District Meeting will be held at The Diamond Mill, a new hotel in Saugerties, NY. Contrary to the date we would normally choose, we are having to have the meeting on April 10, 2014 because our normal date, the third Thursday of the month, falls in Holy Week. Make a note of that and be ready to respond when the first announcement comes through.

While I am thinking about dates, the State Spring Meeting will be held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany on May 8 and 9, 2014. I guess that will be a great one for everyone in our District Three. How much closer could we get?

Thinking about the Fall meeting, wasn't our speaker great? I am seriously thinking of having him again for our Spring meeting. People told me after the presentation how much they had learned from his presentation. What do you think?



Director Olive Felio accepts our clubs' awards from FGCNYS President Gail McGee at the September State Meeting in Ithaca.

For The Holidays

Nov. 23-25 Members of the **Garden Club of Kinderhook** will contribute to the Gallery of Wreaths at the Vanderpoel House, 16 Broad St., Kinderhook. Wreaths are sold to benefit the Columbia County Historical Society. Club members will also decorate Lindenwald, the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, 1013 (Rte. 9H), Kinderhook for its open house on Saturday, Dec. 7. Hours are 3 to 7 p.m.



Nov. 25 **Coxsackie Garden Club** will decorate the Heermance Memorial Library, 1 Ely St., Coxsackie.



Dec. 6 **Helderview Garden Club** will decorate a room in the Ten Broeck Mansion. This year's theme is "Once Upon a Christmas."

Dec. 6 **Germantown Garden Club** will hold its annual children's gingerbread house contest and holiday boutique at the Old Parsonage, 52 Maple Ave., Germantown.



Dec. 6-7 **Guilderland Garden Club** will decorate for an open house and greens show at the Myndersee-Frederick House, 451 Main St., (Rte. 146) Guilderland Center. Hours are Dec. 6, 4-8 p.m. and Dec. 7, 1-5 p.m.



Dec. 7 **Catskill Garden Club** will hold its "A Garden Club Christmas" fundraiser, beginning at 9 a.m., at the Beattie-Powers House. This event features a famous "Cookie Walk" as well as hand-crafted decorations, wreaths and Christmas trees. It is a major fundraiser for the club.



Dec. 7 **Greenbush Garden Club** will hold a membership drive and raffle at Beckers' Farm Holiday Open House, Rte 9, East Greenbush.

Continued from page 1

What do you think about seating all of the club presidents at two or more tables by themselves so they can discuss problems or interesting projects and activities with the other presidents? I think it would do them a world of good to hear from other club presidents about things like how to get new members, what programs have been good or bad, what they do for club therapy and how they get all the club members to join in the work of the club. I think I'll try that in April.

Someone asked me at the meeting when the workshop was going to be. I haven't planned any workshops yet, but our board can certainly get with it if you want one. What do you want a workshop to cover? What problems are you having that a workshop could help solve?

One more item: Our Third District Second Assistant Director has had to resign, and I am looking for someone who would like to work on the spring meeting with Marilyn Ryan and myself. If you think you would like to try it please get in touch with me. The place has already been chosen, and we think we have the main speaker, so you can work with us on the remaining details.

Lynne Arnold has volunteered to take over the wildflower chairperson on our Third District Board. Thank you, Lynne. Betty Hain, our horticulture chairperson is not up to continuing with the position. Couldn't one of you members who is Master Gardener take over that job for the next year and a half? Maybe two of you could do it together? Talk it over and give me a call. I'm waiting to hear from you.

If you would like me to attend one of your meetings please ask me. I do enjoy visiting the clubs. I may bring one of my board members with me for company.

Be certain to check the *Calendar Girl* (mailed to clubs and posted on the FGCNYS website) for dates of programs which your club members might enjoy. Never go without letting the club know you are going to be there.

Have a great holiday season.



Olive Felio,
Director

Dec. 7 **Greenbush Garden Club** will hold a membership drive and raffle at Beckers' Farm Holiday Open House, Rte. 9, East Greenbush.



Dec. 7-8 **Blue Creek Garden Club** provides holiday decorations at the Pruyn House. This year's theme is "Winter Wonderland." Hours are Saturday, 10 to 4, and Sunday, noon to 4.

Dec. 12 **Athens Community Garden Club** will hold a holiday luncheon and auction at Pegasus Restaurant, Rte. 9W, Coxsackie, beginning at 11 a.m. This annual event is the club's major fundraiser and is open to the public. Featured for the auction will be a variety of home baked goods as well as hand-crafted items, and many other interesting articles. Cost is \$18. For information and reservations, contact Anita Benjamin at benjis48girl@aol.com.

Blue Star Marker

(Editor's note: As a bonus from the financially very successful National Garden Clubs meeting in Buffalo last year, the state federation opted to share some of the profits with our ten districts, with the stipulation that the monies be used in a manner that would have district-wide application. After considerable discussion our board voted to pursue the placement of a Blue Star Marker on the grounds of the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center. The following is a progress report.)

I am happy to report that I had a very successful meeting Friday with the Head of Volunteer Services and the Head of Maintenance at the Veteran's Hospital. We chose a site on the right hand side of the hospital as you are facing it. The patients (veterans) all cross the street and walk past the site area on the way into the hospital so they can easily see and read the plaque.

The main road entering the facility is going to be torn up and enlarged next year, so unfortunately that area wasn't an option.

I agreed to a large stone and a stone bench...possibly 2 benches. They will do some plantings around the stone...we may be able to enhance the flowers somewhat. The NY Bluestone Company will do benches for a few hundred dollars. We may be able to do 2 benches and the large stone plus the plaque for our \$2000.

I can now begin the paperwork to order the plaque and will keep you posted on our progress.

Jean Horn,
Blue Star Marker

Reflections

Come take a walk with me, this lovely warm autumn day. Summer with Mother Nature has been a lovely season...even exciting at times. Like when I'm "working" in my garden and WHOOSH!!! A chipmunk scooted across my feet, with his tail straight up in the air. I was sitting in my work/garden chair...pulling weeds...and in his way. Do you know how he got his stripes??? According to an Indian legend, God tried to catch one and it scooted right through his fingers. Thus the stripes.

Autumn has arrived. The brilliant yellows of the Ginkgo trees. I read somewhere that this is the oldest tree found in fossils. I still have a clump of blue Siberian iris that was a wedding present back in 1941. First garden was in Virginia. Had my Bernie build me a long box that rode on the roof of the car when we relocated to Pennsylvania, New Jersey and finally New York - five different gardens. Yes my flowers love me, and I love them.

The most amazing story: My daughter, Dorothy, was living here in Kingston for a few years. Had a lovely garden but moved away, and is now settled in Arizona. She gave me her two big planters...empty. I had no idea what to do with them here in my limited space with daughter, Linda.

They had sat empty for two years when I visited another daughter up on Hunter Mountain, in the springtime. Oh so many marsh marigolds one could see while driving along. One of my favorite spring flowers. I kept exclaiming my joy every time I saw one. When I left to come home she handed me two plastic bags, filled. Each contained a dug-up clump of vegetation, with a marsh marigold in the center.

When I got home, I peeled off the plastic bag and plopped each whole clump, as is, into one of the containers. I have never replanted or weeded. What a surprise experience!!! So many wildflowers keep showing up. Each year another added. This spring, jack in the pulpit arrived! Past two years, several plants of white turtlehead have made quite a showing.

Now that fall has arrived, asters and goldenrod are at their best. This small "garden" has been quite a learning experience.

One knows that summer is waning, with the gathering and honking of the geese flying overhead. I live near a lake and drove there to observe their resting. Heads tucked under their wings, sleeping??? Looked like popcorn floating on the water. They keep one mate for life. Very protective of their goslings.

So as the nights become cooler the squirrels stash away the last acorns, the summer birds have gone south, while the brave winter birds arrive, looking for a meal or two. The last moths have spun their cocoons, the ladybugs have found shelter for their long winter's sleep. Ponds are home for the spring peeper's cycle of life...and another season soon will find peace and rest under winter's blanket of snow.

Happy New Year,
Betty Jean Stinner

New York in Bloom

I just received my application to enter New York in Bloom at the NY State Museum. If you want to register, you can get a form from Michele Peters at (518) 495-0062. Please call her and ask her to send out the number of forms your club might need.

New York in Bloom will be open Friday, Feb. 21 and Sunday Feb. 23, 2014. This is a great opportunity to do an arrangement and not really have to worry about it being judged. Great for those of you who hold back at flower shows. The setup is done the night before the show opens.

Olive Felio

Synergistic Design

"The act of two or more units necessary to achieve an effect of which each is individually incapable." This is on page 210 in the revised 2007 *Handbook for Flower Shows*.

At the Third District Fall Meeting at Birch Hill, designer Douglas J. Koch used various shapes of sugar bowls and milk containers. They were fairly small and of different materials; however, they were similar in color and texture. He used the same flowers in each container to achieve a complete design.

In the book *Designing by Types* are three examples of synergistic designs. Pages 133-35 have the following examples: several different shaped containers united by the same color and using flowers in each container that are the same color; different shapes and colors of glass containers that have the same color of flowers; and three identical containers with similar flowers, suspended in space using a metal frame and incorporating copper tubing to unite the three designs.

Antoinette Babb,
Design

FALL DISTRICT MEETING



Birch Hill's Greeters



Pictures of some of our clubs' activities, collected by Director Olive Felio and displayed at the recent State meeting.



Ways and Means

From left: Garden Club of Kinderhook members Fran Heaney, Cynthia Tiano Bogardus, Carolyn Beveridge and Camille McComb





Holiday Arrangements



By
Douglas Koch



Awards

presented at Fall District Meeting

Third District Citations

Clematis Garden Club: Blue Star By-Way Memorial Marker, Civic Beautification/Concern, Historic Preservation - Landscape Design, Landscape Design/Education, Publication - Newsletter

Garden Club of Kinderhook: Decoration of Historic Building, Historic Preservation, Horticulture Therapy, Publication - Newsletter

Germantown Garden Club: Flower Show Schedule Award, Publication - Newsletter, Standard Flower Show Award, Unsolicited District Award for Special Exhibit on Herbs at their Flower Show

Greenbush Garden Club: Civic Improvement, Continuing Landscape Project, Garden Therapy, Horticultural Therapy, Publications - Brochure and Newsletter

Guilderland Garden Club: Landscape Design

Yearbooks – by class size

Class I - under 20 members:

3rd District: 1st - H. Gilbert Harlow (also 1st in state); 2nd - Saugerties Society of Little Gardens; HM - Coxsackie and Hugh Platt GC

Class 2 - 20-29 members:

3rd District: 1st - Greenport GC (also HM in state); 2nd - Greenbush GC; 3rd - Garden Explorers; HM - Guilderland and Schoharie Valley GCs.

Class 3 - 30-44 members:

1st - Germantown GC (also 2nd in state)

Class 4 - 45-69 members

3rd District: 1st - New Paltz GC (also 3rd in state); 2nd - Clematis GC; 3rd - Tioronda GC; HM - Shawangunk and Kinderhook GCs

FGCNYS Anniversary Citations

A salute to the first clubs who formed FGCNYS, INC in 1924 - GC of Kinderhook

A salute to the clubs that followed - 1925-2013

Community GC of Marlborough years	1925 - 88
Saugerties Society of Little Gardens years	1928 - 85
Germantown GC years	1933 - 80
Hugh Platt GC years	1948 - 65
Garden Study Club of Albany years	1953 - 60
Country GC of Clifton Park years	1953 - 60
Glen Oaks GC years	1968 - 45
Athens Community GC years	1973 - 40
Helderview GC years	1978 - 35

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Awards

NGC Award #5 3 - National Garden Week, group of clubs: Columbia County Garden Clubs

NGC Certificate in Appreciation of Award Participation: Clematis, Greenbush and New Paltz GCs

In Our Clubs

Clematis



At their September meeting Clematis Garden Club members shared arrangements from flowers and vegetables growing in their gardens.



Throughout the summer Joan Radley continued work on the Blue Star Memorial gardens in Coeymans Hollow, extending the area, maintaining and refreshing the plantings.

In October Clematis member Jane Hershey gave a lecture on creating a sustainable garden, sharing information on edible landscapes, seed saving and propagation. Jane is a founder of the Potter Hollow Sustainability Group. Assisting in the preparation of the program was Christine O'Dell, Clematis member and professor of plant science at SUNY Cobleskill.



During the summer months, members nominate outstanding gardens in the towns served by Clematis for Garden



of the Month Awards to recognize and encourage individual effort. Club members are not eligible for the awards. The garden on the left is in Climax, and the one on the right is in East Durham.



Germantown

The Germantown Garden Club, as part of their Arbor Day project for 2013, funded the planting of a river birch tree on the grounds of the Germantown Library. The library began in the 1920's among garden club members lending gardening books to each other. In 1948 the collection grew so large that it was decided to form a general library for the town of Germantown.

Since then the Germantown Garden Club has supported the library with an annual monetary donation, helped the gardening section grow with an annual gardening book donation and funded annual subscriptions to *Horticulture* and *Cricket* magazines. Supporting the library is one of several club community outreach programs. Pictured from left are club member Melanie Nelson, librarian Lynn Place and club members Barbara Kahle, Kate Kennedy and Nancy Porter.



At a recent club meeting chef Mark Howell, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America gave a presentation on cooking with herbs. Continuing with the club's theme for 2013, "Rediscovering Herbs," Mark discussed the history of herbs and their uses. He provided samples of different herbs for identification as well as showing how to make compound butters with herbs. Mark demonstrated the cooking of vegetable dishes using herbs and passed samples around to the audience.

The club also held a very successful workshop on how to make an herbal wreath. The members of the club along with five guests created herbal wreaths to take home. The workshop was under the direction of Erin Brady, designer and owner of Crazy Daisy Florist and Candy Shoppe in Valatie. Erin supplied all the materials needed to complete either a small or larger wreath. Making a wreath was a first-time experience for some, and thanks to Erin this was a successful experience.

Fran Bufti

Greenbush

On Saturday August 17, the club held a workshop in the community room at Branson Manor to make autumn wreaths and baskets to sell at the Fort Crailo Harvest Fair. In preparation for the fair, the club did a general cleanup of the gardens at the fort a few days prior to the occasion.

On September 14, the day of the fair, it was a cold and windy morning on the shores of the Hudson River. The members staffing the table had all they could do to keep things from blowing away. To our dismay, the fair was not very well attended and we only sold about half of what was made. What to do, what to do? Always resourceful, we approached Sister Kate at St. Michael's Church in Troy and arranged to sell the remainder in the church lobby before and after the masses on the following Saturday and Sunday. We sold out after the 10:00



Greenbush Garden Club members, left to right: Barbara Duggan, Theresa Murphy, Eric Pepper, Diane Madden and Cora Stackelberg

Mass on Sunday morning and our profit was even more than we anticipated.

The speaker at our October 1 club meeting was Judy Stacey, an Albany County Master Gardener, who presented an outstanding program on tulips. Judy was in charge of the Albany Tulip Festival for many years. She related the history of the festival and showed spectacular photos of the gardens in Washington Park and throughout the city of Albany, explaining how they came into their glory. Afterwards she patiently answered questions from the audience.

Diane Madden

Greenport

Junior Gardeners Learn About Bees and Beekeeping

The Greenport Garden Club presented a workshop to the Hudson Blue-Hawk Nation After School Program on Bees and Beekeeping. Maria Kolodziej-Zincio of Blue Hill Garden Apiary demonstrated how a beekeeper takes care of bees and how important bees are in their world. The club annually sponsors the Junior Garden Program, with workshops on floral designs, crafts and horticulture. The program begins in September and ends in November.

Maria Kolodziej-Zincio



Landscape Design

Before planning to redesign your garden, review the growing pattern as well as the changes that occur in the four seasons of the year. Observe what grows well in your area and then think about the amount of space you plan to use. This will determine if you will only plant bushes, trees and flowers, or have room to incorporate a waterfall or an area for a fish pond. Look at various local gardens, as well as pictures of gardens from other areas and eras. The landscaping around Blue Star Markers offers examples of designs for small spaces.

Antoinette Babb,
Landscape Design

From the Editor

Each year I make a list of what is still blooming on November 3. Sometimes it's very short, sometimes amazingly long. This year it's somewhere in the middle. But in most ways this past growing season wasn't a moderate, middling sort of one. Everything grew and Grew and GREW - up and out and wherever it possibly could. No one believed my *Clematis ternifolia* was only one plant! My husband likes noticeable spaces between plants, and this spring I decided to try to accommodate him, at least in one bed. Boy, did I pick the wrong year for that!



When you've been gardening for some time (since 1974 for me) you develop plant and design preferences. A personal style. I think of mine as sort of kitcheny or, to make a stronger statement, controlled exuberance. I like plants to look as if they're free to grow as they wish but don't necessarily allow them to do that.

Last month I finally bit the bullet, computerwise, and upgraded from Windows XP to Windows 8. One could think of this experience as either hopping onto a steep learning curve or diving off a tall cliff. So many operations have been renamed and grouped differently. There remain quite a few that I'm sure must still be available and accessible somehow — maybe someday I'll find them. Or figure out why things I didn't intend keep happening. Meantime, putting together something like this newsletter is still a somewhat alien experience.

Wisely, I didn't change computers until the manuscript for my new mystery novel, *Now Running*, was off to be published. Like the first three (*Summerkill*, *Falling Backward* and *The Emerald Men*), it's available as a paperback or e-book on Amazon, under my name. There's more about them on my website: <http://maryann12184.tripod.com/inmygarden>.

Maryann

Happy Holidays

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.

Some District III members seem to have trouble accessing this online version of The Digest. I'm not sure what the problem is, but perhaps they don't have an Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download from Adobe) on their computers, 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.

