

Keeping us The News



connected Magazine

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Precious Moments



This moment was captured when Monica and two other ladies were "on tour" throughout the state with a spontaneous design road show: Name of show. Monica, on left, was traveling incognito much to the delight of her home district 8 and the District's Director Debbie Braun in Fall of 2018.



(Shown left) Monica is known for her upbeat personality and infectious laugh. Receiving a National Award of Excellence on behalf for our FGCNYS Book Bag Project. So here is a picture of another of those happy moments.

(Left to right) Monica received the award from NGC President Nancy Hargroves and NGC 3rd Vice President Brenda Moore during the NGC National Convention held in Biloxi, MS April 30, 2019

It is hard to believe that two years have gone by so quickly. What a wonderful opportunity and privilege it has been to serve as President of The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State! I have been so fortunate to drive throughout our beautiful State and meet with our members who are so committed to volunteerism with their projects that give back to our communities many times over! It has truly been an inspirational journey.

And to think, it all began with a four leaf clover. I often think back to 2008, the year I became President of Orchard Park Garden Club. I hadn't been in garden club very long and one day my husband John and I were in our back yard talking and I was bemoaning the fact that I didn't know much about gardening and wondering if I would ever learn enough to be our Club's President. I remember him looking down at the grass and he bent down and picked up a little four-leaf clover. When he gave it to me he said how the little clover had grown straight, tall, and survived as an individual plant in a yard full of grass and reassured me that things would be just fine.

While driving across our State I would see the great efforts of our members and think about that little clover again. Four-leaf clovers are more unique than those with three leaves and so too are our members. Whether the scene is of hanging baskets and planter boxes to welcome folks to our communities, various gardens - whether they are village gardens, therapy gardens, native plant initiatives, pollinator gardens, produce, and library or school gardens - they are all growing and thriving by the hard work of our members. Some have been established by members who came before us, but with our love and the nurturing we do today, all will live on. There are the Blue/Gold Star Markers, along with the flower shows, and plant sales that serve to encourage the love of gardening and educate our members and the public. We look around and see all the trees that you, your members and in some cases the youth in your area, have planted. All the work we do with our garden therapy projects, Hospice patients, youth programs, College and DEC camp scholarships, and our Book Bag project that is now being shared by more than 60 of our clubs. Thank you too for your support of our World Gardening project with Water for South Sudan and for accepting our new project called Dig Deep, that offers members the choice to support people in need in our Country, as well.

I couldn't be more proud of you all. Thank you for all you have done to help us "Plant America for a Cleaner, Greener, and Healthier World" and for the tremendous support you gave me. And a very special thanks to our members who have served with me on our FGCNYS Board of Directors.

I'd also like to thank John, our sons and their families, and our dog, Little Jack Hansen, II for their love and support these past years. I think I can now take off my nametag when I'm home, and stay for a while. Since I left my ironing board in college and only dust on even years, now I guess I better start to learn something about gardening. If you are ever in Orchard Park, please give me a jingle - I'd love to see you.

I'd like to leave you with a quote, and encourage us all to continue to make the most of every day we have. "Today will be yesterday before we know it, so let's make this day count".

Monica

From
Monica's
pen...



Monica Hansen, President, FGCNYS

Garden Therapy: Keep It Going

Garden Therapy has been a part of the Bowmansville Garden Club for many years. I have been a member since 2000, 19 years ago, and it was already a well established committee at that time. How long has a Garden Therapy Committee been a part of your Club? Is it vibrant? Or is it slowing down, or fading out? The time is now to examine how things are going and to make improvements and adjustments if necessary. If you do not have a Garden Therapy Committee, how about *now* as a time to start.

Fresh, creative ideas are always a challenge. We meet once a month with assisted living residents and I like to have 3- 4 different craft project ideas thought out for each month. It is then easier to select one project to present for that given time and season. Some residents we only see once or twice, but some have been at every get-together for several years. After 3 years I feel we can repeat a successful craft without it feeling overworked. Meeting with members from other GT committees helps widen your vision, introduce you to new ideas, and may help you to tweak a so-so project into a successful and enjoyable one.

With the arrival of spring and summer the selection of usable natural materials is wonderfully abundant. Selections from our gardens can supply us with beautiful plant material at no cost. Flowers can be used fresh in a vase or design, or dried for use in making book-marks and cards, or for decorating the edge of a picture frame. Fragrant flowers such as lavender can be used to make sachets, and roses can be incorporated into a potpourri. Wooded areas and roadsides can be the source of thistle, milkweed, cattails, etc., providing you with some interesting and sometimes unique pieces for arrangements. A local beach may have a great selection of driftwood, sea shells, and pebbles.

It has taken me some time to rein in my natural instinct to direct and control the whole craft project. The senior adults that participate in our Garden Therapy project of the month have their own creative ideas and have demonstrated some terrific talent. When given the chance, they prove themselves to be quite capable, talented, and innovative. We have discovered some delightful personalities among these strong and determined adults.

I encourage you to work in Garden Therapy. I also suggest that you keep in contact with others involved in Garden Therapy in your District. You may discover that you "reap more than you sow" and may realize that you look forward to your next Garden Therapy get-together.

Judith Visco

Bowmansville Garden Club, District 8

Viscofj@aol.com

Victoria Bellias President-Elect: 46th FGCNYS



Service at a glance:

Past President of Three Village GC
Second District Director in 2003-2005
2 terms as 2nd and 3rd VP of FGCNYS

Currently:

NGC, Inc. Master Judge
Consultant:
Master Environmental Schools
Master Landscape Design
Master Gardening Schools
Life Member: FGCNYS, CAR-SGC, NGC

Victoria has been an active member of the Three Village Garden Club since 1986, where she has served as President and has held various offices and chairmanships. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors.

She has been a member of the Second District Board since 1993 and has had many positions. She served as Second District Director 2003-2005. She recently served as District Awards, Year-book and Gardening School.

Victoria has served one term as Corresponding Secretary, two terms each as Third Vice President and Second Vice President of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. She currently serves as Second Vice President and as FGCNYS Flower Show Schedule Awards Chairman, Gardening Schools Chairman and Liaison for the Governance Committee. She is currently President-elect.

Vikki is a National Garden Clubs Master Judge. She is a Master Environmental Schools Consultant, a Master Landscape Design Consultant and a Master Gardening Schools Consultant. She is a Life member of FGCNYS, CAR-SGC and NGC.

Vikki has found that our Garden Clubs connect us to our communities and our natural world. The educational opportunities help us grow together to protect our world and increase our enjoyment of its beauty through our joint creative endeavors.

Vikki lives in Stony Brook with her husband, Greg, and their dog, Tillie. Their son, Matthew, and his family live in the Boston area. Vikki enjoys gardening, tennis, the beach, church and community activities.

Vikki will be installed as our FGCNYS 46th President May 21, 2019.



The 2019 Central Atlantic Region-State Garden Clubs Conference will be held on October 24 - 25 and will be immediately followed by the National Capital Area Garden Club Symposium on October 26 - 27, both at the Arlington Hilton Hotel, located at 950 N. Stafford, Arlington, VA. This Conference, hosted by National Capital Area, is shaping up to be a Conference that you will not want to miss. Join us for "A Capital Harvest" in beautiful Arlington, VA very near our nation's Capital.

For further information, please go to our fgcnys.com website, click on the CAR link, follow that to their website and then under "events" you will find all the information about the Conference, Symposium and hotel reservations.



Plant America Grant Winners

These wonderful Plant America Grants enable enthusiastic gardeners to beautify a spot in their town. Does your club have a wish list or a garden project in mind? Information about the Plant America Community Project Grants can be found on the National Garden Clubs web site. Your club might consider applying for one also!

The Ballston Spa House & Garden Club were honored to receive the grant for "Plant America", 2019. Our very active club of nineteen members is located in a small Victoria-era village in District IV. The request for the grant was for restoring and enhancing two gardens the club had planted and maintained. The "Pink Garden" was established in 2010 to honor those touched by cancer. The garden was initiated by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. to support the "Susan B. Koman for the Cure. This garden is in the front of the Ballston Spa Public Library. (See photo section of this newsletter) A few overgrown and invasive bushes will be removed and an attempt to rid the area of Bishop's weed will take place. The second garden, "The Garden of Learning", is at the rear entrance to the library and was started in 2013 with the help of navy personnel. This replaced an old, overgrown garden that had been neglected for many years. The grant will be used to remove numerous bushes and weeds and replaced with more appropriate plants & shrubs. Old growth along both sides of the building will be removed and landscaping will be installed. Brookside, a local nursery, will donate the planning and design for the total area. Boy Scout Troop 1 and the Rotary Club will remove the unwanted growth and spread new soil and compost to the areas. Club members will plant new shrubs and plants to beautify the areas. Club members and the library staff are excited to see the final results. Thanks to this grant the gardens will blossom to make a welcoming entrance to the village library.
Barb Millington
Ballston Spa House & Garden Club Co-President District 4

This year will be a busy one for **Forest Stream Garden Club!** We are the proud recipients of a \$1,000 grant from NGC's Plant America Community Project Grants! Our club is buzzing with excitement over this wonderful opportunity. We'd love to share with you a little background information about our project. Located in Buffalo, NY, Town of Amherst, is the Village of Williamsville. One of the special treasures of the village is a building called The Meeting House. Originally built as a church in 1871, this building eventually became the property of the Village of Williamsville in 1976. As with many older structures, this building needed many repairs and restorations. This undertaking was a community project for many years. When the building restorations were completed, it was eligible and became named to the National Registry of Historic Places. Today, it serves as a museum and is also used by the community for public seminars, concerts, weddings, and plays for children and adults. In recent years, Forest Stream Garden Club has donated funds to purchase urns, a bench, and flowers for the front garden of The Meeting House. Club members have diligently tended to the planting, watering, fertilizing and weeding spring through fall. It had been a long time wish to expand the garden, but funding has always been limited. Receiving this grant has provided the means for Forest Stream to move forward with this gardening project at The Meeting House. As for Forest Stream, we'll be putting on those garden gloves before long! Can't wait!

Submitted by: Joyce Barbalato, President, Forest Stream Garden Club

"WOO-HOO!...We feel like we won the gardening lottery!" Forest Stream GC

The Village of Ardsley, New York is encouraging the arrival of butterflies, bees and birds this Spring, as the **Ardsley Garden Club** (member of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.) involves the community in development of our Pollinator Garden at the Ardsley Public Library thanks to a \$1,000 grant from the National Garden Club Plant America Program.

Open to the public, the Pollinator Garden is attracting Monarchs, Swallowtail and Painted-Lady butterflies to feast on just the right kind of milkweed, while bees find their way to pollen-filled bee balm and coneflower (Echinacea).

In late 2017 the Ardsley Garden Club, celebrating its 60th Anniversary, took charge to restore, plant and maintain the neglected garden on the grounds of the Ardsley Public Library. This location, in the heart of the village, serves a multi-generational population in our community. Club members volunteered in the design and creation of a pollinator garden by identifying existing plants, weeding and adding topsoil and compost to prepare this quarter-acre plot. Plants were selected and planted specifically to aid and support Monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Girl Scouts volunteered to weed, plant and mulch annual flower beds. The charming wooden bridge (see pic.), newly painted by the Ardsley Public Works Department, beautified the busy entrance to the garden. A volunteer designed a diagram of the garden (pic), showing names of plants and their locations, which has been printed and may be used for self-guided tours. By late summer, the native plants were hosting bees, caterpillars (pic) and other pollinators.

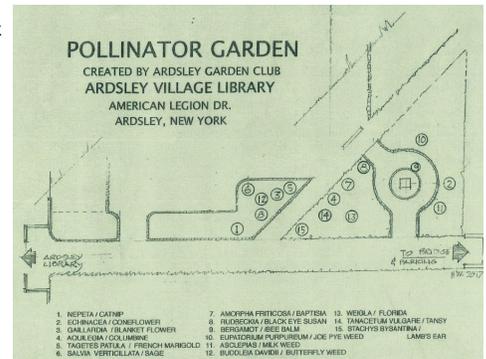
2018 found the garden at the dawn of a new season. With the help of club members, scouts and community volunteer labor the first half of the garden plantings were completed and thriving.

Within the 2019-20 grant year the Ardsley Garden Club will enhance and complete our Community Pollinator Plant America Garden by purchasing and planting native American Dogwood trees, native milkweed varieties and Eastern Bluestar plants to host and support pollinators. Soil-amendment products and mulches will make it possible to have a successful, sustaining garden. To involve and inspire future generations, a children's library group will be planting sunflower seeds (pic. of early potted seeds ready for spring). By summer the Ardsley Garden Club will be ready to offer educational tours and how-to-weed programs for the public ages 9 - 90.

As an integral part of our "save the pollinators" program, the Ardsley Garden Club has harvested, packaged and planted our local primary food source: milkweed plants. These plants and seed packs (pic) will be distributed and sold in the community starting at our May Flower & Plant Expo.

Our local Pollinator Plant America Garden design compliments a national push to counteract the damaging effects of habitat loss, herbicides and pesticides by creating a garden that boosts the number of pollinators and the plants they need. Thus the quarter acre Ardsley Pollinator Garden is part of a much bigger eco-system.

Submitted by M&T Harnik





The Three Village Garden Club is proud to receive a Plant America Community Project Grant for the installation of a native pollinator garden in their Arboretum.

The Club has maintained this 4.6-acre property since 1985 as a nature preserve, which is open all year for the pleasure of the community. The Arboretum is used for the education of youth and adults. Local schools participate in the Club's Arbor Day and "Meet the Trees" programs, and local teens are involved in projects that teach environmental stewardship.

The native pollinator garden has been placed in an area that was historically designated a wildflower area, but had long since reverted to mowed lawn. It is hoped that this project will illustrate to the public how to transform a garden to be more environmentally friendly. At the same time the garden will be visually pleasing, adding color, all season interest and enhanced habitat for wildlife.

The planting bed was prepared in advance with the help of a local youth group, Students Taking Action for Tomorrow's Environment. The garden was planted by Club members this past fall. The plant palette includes native grasses, asters, goldenrods, milkweeds and mints. All are host plants for pollinators and beneficial insects and deemed to be resistant to deer browsing. The Club member who designed the planting plan obtained plant plugs from the Long Island Native Plant Initiative and local native plant nurseries. The open-pollinated plants in this garden will be the source of propagules that can be used in the Club's horticultural and design workshops and programs.

A final report will be submitted in the Fall 2019 after one growing season, during which time the garden will come into its own, providing sustenance for pollinators and beauty in all seasons for visitors of the Arboretum.

Submitted by Sue Avery Three Villages Garden Club



"Take thee to a Plant Sale!"

By Ima Gardener

Dear Ima Gardener,

I am overwhelmed by nurseries and their choices. They are a wonderful place to be, but selection is overwhelming and unless you visit one right at opening, you are relegated to translating fine print plant tags and trying to imagine how the annual or perennial will work in your garden. Plus I would love to save a few dollars. Do you have any advice? Overstimulated in Hamburg.

Dear Overstimulated,

Here's the advice of a wily gardener friend Bill Shakespeare, a friendly next door neighbor, who recently received some research on ancestry that seems to hint that he is .0025% related to the famous Elizabethan bard. But since Bill and Will are and were really into plants, how can we dispute his claim? But I digress.

Bill's advice is: *Take thee to a plant sale!* And how right he is. (*Bill will interject periodically*)

If you are overwhelmed by selection and genus, species, and all that jazz... a plant sale is not only stocked with plants, but is full of knowledgeable people called Garden Club Members. If one doesn't know the answer to your question... there will be another member close by who does. In no time they will have you set up.

Some plant sales offer perennials right from the members' gardens. This is horticultural gold. I still remember scoring on a Monks Hood plant right from Millard Fillmore's garden. And I often gaze fondly at my run amok Cranesbill that I happily bought at a South Towns Gardeners' sale. Take advantage of plant sales.. They offer variety, many wonderful anecdotes about plants, and advice on how to color coordinate them, *in case you be color blind*. Though I must say I am recently intrigued with a basic black and white plant container idea. (If you are at plant sale; find me and ask about the *Little Black Dress* container. The picture above is a good likeness.)

So let's see now: plant sales offer variety and plenty of knowledgeable people to consult. Here's some more advice. *Forsooth!* Carry a scheme of your garden with you. Members will flock around with praise and joy eager to see your project. It is a good idea to know the location of your garden (is it in shade? Or sun?) or the dimensions of your container. This is where plant tags come in handy. Do not be intimidated when it comes to plant tags. Yes, garden club members are literate in TAGS which are notorious for their fine print. Garden club members have an eagle eye.. And EXPERIENCE with soil and growing conditions like full sun, partial sun, shade. It's amazing! They just know this stuff! I have no idea how they absorb all there is to know. But they do.

Finally: aren't you the wise one? *A penny saved is another plant you'll be able to buy.* Plants sales are tax free zones, because most area garden clubs are non profit organizations. *Aha!* Cautious about what happens to the money non profits make during their plant sale? *Be ye not afear'd.* Most monies go back into the community in forms of beautification. Many garden clubs offer scholarships to graduating High School Seniors pursuing degrees associated with ecology and horticulture. Middle school children may also apply for a summer experience at one of NYS DECA camps.

So from Bill Shakespeare: *Gather ye garden club plant sale plants while ye may!*

Editorial note: Apologies for Bill's penchant to alter Shakespearean quotes to suit his purpose.

FAMILY OUTREACH



WE DID IT!!!!

Our FGCNYS Book Bag Project, under the Direction of Carol Brown, Family Outreach Chairman, won the NGC Award of Excellence!

On top of everything else you have done to make me so proud and FGCNYS such a wonderful organization, at the NGC Convention in Biloxi, MS this year, I was presented with the NGC Award of Excellence for our Book Bag Project.

This was initially conceptualized by one of our NY State Clubs and has evolved and expanded into a statewide project under the direction of Carol Brown, our FGCNYS Family Outreach Chairman. In March of 2017 I met with Steve and Carol Brown to flesh out what had begun as an informal meeting with children and parents at one of their local libraries where gardening stories were read. We came up with the Board position "Family Outreach" so that we could add other projects, which we have done, and with the hope it could grow and evolve with us. What began small has now branched out to include more than 60 clubs across New York. It is hard to estimate the impact and number of children touched by this initiative. Carol Brown is involved with two garden clubs and when I asked how many libraries and children their two clubs have interacted with since this project began, she said ".....4 libraries and hundreds of kids from pre-K to 2nd grade". Compound that across our State and the numbers are significant. This project certainly seems to be making an impact.

I am so proud of our members as they have taken this project to heart. Each Club has customized it to meet the needs of their libraries and communities. Some Clubs use back packs, others have bags embroidered with a frog, patterned after NGC's "The Frightened Frog" book. One of our Clubs has chosen to use a Butterfly on their bags and the newspaper article promoting this project goes on to detail how this Garden Club's Butterfly Bags take flight at the Public Library. Our intent on the state level was to encourage our Districts and Clubs to promote this initiative and by doing so, allowing them the freedom to choose what works for them.

Another of our Clubs put together an action plan to share with other clubs to get them started. These Word documents can be customized for each Club to use, and tweak as they see fit. This guide provides a packet of materials - a letter to the library staff, a tag for returning book bags and books to the library, sample of a flyer to post in the library, and a schedule of activities or items to be included in the bag depending upon the season, e.g. seeds; a magnifying glass to spot bugs in the grass to accompany a book on bugs; a pine cone, seeds and instructions on making a bird feeder to give to children while they are reading a book about birds, etc. Also included in these bags are information sheets to the parents giving an overview of the project.

This initiative has drawn more community interest in our garden clubs as parents become more involved with our members and has helped us with my special project of "**Planting the Seeds of Membership**". This is also another way to teach children as well as their parents about the importance of saving our environment for the future and advancing both NGC and FGCNYS goals to "**Plant America for a Cleaner, Greener, and Healthier World**". Thank you all so very much for supporting this wonderful and very worthwhile project.

Monica

Ask A Member?



Janet Speciale-Stoklosa Orchard Park GC, District 8

Our question this month has to do with a failing blue spruce. We are fortunate to have a certified arborist and tree expert among our members in **Tom Anderson** to answer our question.

Q: I have a **30+ year old Blue Spruce** that has grown up with us in front of our house. It's taller than the house and we have enjoyed watching it grow. The last few years, bottom branches have died and needed to be cut off. Each yr. this seems to move up the tree and soon we will have lost too many bottom branches to preserve the tree. Is there anything that we can do to stop this progression? Or is this simply life expectancy and it is a 30 year old tree aging out?

A: There are several reasons why a spruce tree may lose needles from the bottom up. **The first and most important thing to do is to call a certified arborist to inspect the site and the tree for conditions that could be causing the tree to drop needles.** Several factors could be contributing to tree decline.

In drought-like conditions, spruce trees may have trouble getting enough water to all their needles. As a result, bottom needles die to help hydrate the rest of the tree. This problem is easy to fix! If the tree's soil is dry to the touch, give it extra water through summer's dry spells. Continue watering throughout the fall, and apply mulch to seal in moisture. On the flip side, excess soil moisture or poor soil conditions can also lead to decline. Blue spruce in particular do not like having "wet feet." Find a happy medium and allow the soil to dry out in between watering which will encourage the roots to grow stronger. This is typically not an issue in WNY especially with mature trees.

Blue spruce also attract a few common diseases which can progress from the bottom of the tree upward which is more likely to be the cause of your tree's decline. Most commonly in our area is **rhizosphaera needle cast disease**. Typically, first year needles on lower or shaded branches are colonized by the fungus and tend to drop first near the bottom of the tree. Needle cast disease can be managed with properly timed fungicide applications, proper fertilization and watering, and removal of dead tissue on or beneath the tree (such as needles laying on the ground beneath the canopy).

Another common disease, **cytospora canker disease**, leaves bulges or cankers on branches while seeping bluish-white sap from the trunk. Diseased tissue should be removed from the tree making sure to sanitize your pruning tools between each cut. Fungicide injections can help manage this disease as well as proper fertilization, watering, and site conditions.

Evergreens naturally wean out older needles as part of their growing cycle. Plus, when higher needles branch out, lower ones blocked from sunlight may die off. Since trees have a finite amount of energy, they want to prioritize the needles that can get sunlight to complete photosynthesis.

If you see something odd or worrisome, have an expert take a look to diagnose the problem, and determine the best course of action.

Herbs and Butterflies

Earth Day is one recognized day in April to raise the levels of consciousness about all things to do with planet Earth. And the earth could certainly use it. **But as responsible gardeners, we try to make every day Earth Day.** Composting = recycling, mulching = water conservation, buying ladybugs at your local garden center = eliminating harmful pesticides. We help our gardens look their best by knowing each plant's requirements. One of the easiest groups to grow successfully is herbs. Most of them are perennial and once established, they require very little attention. And their benefits are wide-ranging, from culinary to crafts, medicinal to companion plants. Herbs in the parsley family (Umbelliferae) provide an additional benefit, as they are the host plant for the Black Swallowtail butterfly. We know that butterflies are pollinators and add beauty to our gardens, but did you know that they are easy to raise (making them fun and educational)? Attracting and raising butterflies is the perfect Earth Day project. You'll love it, the kids and grandkids will love it! So let's get started.

First, you'll need a host plant. This is the plant on which the female butterfly lays its eggs and the caterpillar will need as a food source. Host plants are very specific for each species of butterfly. The Black Swallowtail uses plants in the parsley family (parsley, fennel, dill, carrot, Queen Anne's lace, etc.). In fact, the caterpillar is sometimes called the parsley worm. I will be focusing on parsley and fennel. These plants have a tap root, so when planting, loosen the soil beyond the average depth. Soil should be well-drained and rich (add compost). They need full sun, although parsley could stand some shade. The easiest way to start an herb garden is to buy plants (our Plant Sale!). Otherwise, start from seed. Parsley is very slow to germinate, so start indoors. It is a self-seeding biennial (grows leafy the first year, goes to seed the second). Keep moist until established, then average water needs. Fennel, a perennial, can be sown directly in the soil and is also self-sowing. It can grow up to 5'. Plants in this family make good companion plants because their flowers (called umbels: flat-topped or rounded flower clusters in which the individual flower stalks emerge from the same point on the stem, like the ribs of an umbrella) attract predatory insects which then protect nearby plants.

Next, you'll need a caterpillar. Watch for Black Swallowtails starting in late May or June. Check the host plants for eggs (very small light yellow or white spheres). They will take 3-5 days to hatch. The new caterpillar is about 1/8" long and is black with a white midsection stripe (it looks like a bird dropping, to camouflage it from predators). As the caterpillar grows, it will molt and slightly change colors five times (each one is called an instar) and will grow up to 2" long. If you touch its head, it will extend a bright orange forked structure (osmeterium). This emits a foul odor to discourage predators. A good time to collect them is when they are about 1" long. Too soon and you have to keep them fed longer, too late and they could disappear (eaten by a predator or wandered off). I keep mine in an old 10 gallon aquarium with a screen top, but



This article submitted by Wendy Zebehazy, one of our OPGC's Conservation & Environmental Chairs, features: the Blackswallow Tail Butterfly, Best of Show Award winning photographs entered in Erie County Fair (above), hints on how to take similar pix, and an adoption offer to help you raise your own butterflies. HAPPY EARTH DAY!

any large, covered container will do. Keep it out of the direct sun. Be sure it is clear so that you'll be able to observe this fascinating process. Keep sprigs of the host plant available to the caterpillar. To keep them fresh, I put mine in soaked oasis. Don't use water, because the caterpillar will drown. When the caterpillar starts to roam, it is looking for a place to attach itself in order to form its chrysalis (the pupa stage). Have a couple of branched twigs leaning against the inside of the container for it to use, but it may use the sides or top anyway. It will attach itself vertically with silken threads and soon after will magically transform into a chrysalis, which may be brown or green. In about 9-11 days the chrysalis will turn dark, which means that the butterfly is ready to emerge. However, sometimes it will overwinter in this stage. When it emerges, its wings are very small. The butterfly will hang on the twig and pump up its wings with fluid. When they are dry, it is ready to be released, preferably in the morning or early afternoon. (Here's a secret: If you want to photograph them before release, put them in a container in the fridge for about 20 minutes. When you put them on a flower, it will take them a couple of minutes to warm up and fly away. Snap! Snap!) The adults are large, up to 4", and will need to feed on nectar plants. Some of their favorites are zinnia, bee balm, butterfly bush, phlox, purple coneflower and milkweed.

And that's all there is to it. A wonderful project for any age, with so many benefits. This is also successful with Monarch butterflies (host plant- milkweed). Good luck, have fun, and make every day Earth Day!

Wendy Zebehazy, Orchard park GC, District 8



Wands for Wildlife

Donate your old mascara wands to Appalachian Wildlife organization. A wave of your recycled mascara wand can remove fly eggs and larva from the fur of a wild creature. Check out this website:

<https://www.appalachianwild.org/wands-for-wildlife.html>

Access this live link. Put cursor over link, press ctrl and click when little hand appears.

Looking Forward By Looking Back...



Looking forward by looking back...FGCNYS president is pictured at the 2018 NGC Convention with Nancy Hargroves, NGC President as she receives all our FGCNYS Awards.

On May 21, 2019 Monica will hand over the gavel of the FGCNYS to Victoria Bellias during the installation ceremony in Hauppauge, Long Island. When asked what she would do with all her spare time, Monica replied, "dust", which she only does in even years and has missed quite a few years. We will miss Monica's lovely sense of humor.

The pictures on this page capture some charming moments many of us have shared during Monica's Presidency.



Three Muses: Chris Leskosky, President Garden Club of Pennsylvania; Robin Hammer, President National Capitol Area; and Monica. When Presidents meet, great ideas and smiles are shared.



Tony

Antes, District VI Director receives one of Monica's special awards - "Planting the Seeds of Membership" for the Study Group of Syracuse Garden Club. This Award was given at our Fall Conference in Corning, NY. this past September and recognizes an



Gary Barrack, District III Director and former District III Director Camille McComb also receive one of Monica's special awards - "Planting the Seeds of Membership" for the Garden Club of Kinderhook where Camille is a member. Another membership increase contest has begun - see "From Monica's pen" in our lead article for details.

Photo by: Debbie Braun, District 8 Director



Inspiration. Every club, district, state, and national gathering begins with a moment of reflection when garden club members are given an opportunity to appreciate the scope and breath of the blessings bestowed upon them and to realize the gifts they convey to others. At this conference Monica was chosen to lead members in this moment of hope and prayer at opening Luncheon at the NGC Convention in Philadelphia, 2018.



Jack and Zach Johnson are avid participants in the Outreach program. Here they are shown getting down to "bees-ness". See page 5.

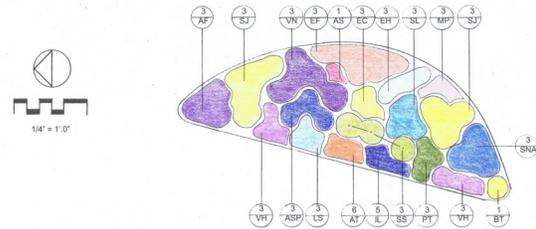


Ballston Spa House & Garden Club... article page 3.

Ardsey Garden Club ...see article page 3



Newest Gold Star memorial was dedicated October 20, 2018 in Saratoga Springs. Photo submitted by Carol Brown



CODE	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	ATTRIBUTES	SEASON	HABITAT
AF	Agastache foeniculum	giant blue hyssop	purple flower	Jul-frost	bee, butterfly, hummingbird
AS	Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	pink flower	summer	Monarch, bee
ASP	Aster spheeroides	showy aster	blue flower	Aug-Sept	bee, butterfly
AT	Asclepias tuberosa	butterfly weed	orange flower	Jul-Aug	bee, butterfly
BT	Baptisia tinctoria	false wild indigo	yellow flower	summer	bee, frosted elfin
EH	Eupatorium hyssopifolium	hyssop-leaved thoroughwort	white flower	Jun-Aug	pollinators, birds
EC	Euthamia sarrocinna	slender goldenrod	yellow flower	Aug-Oct	bee
EE	Euthamia furcata	yellow stem Joe Pye weed	pink flower	Jul-Sept	bee, butterfly, bird
IL	Isomeris linearifolia	stiff aster	lavender flower	Aug-Oct	bee
LS	Labelia siphilitica	blue cardinal flower	blue flower	Jul-Sept	bee, butterfly, hummingbird
MP	Monarda punctata	dotted maid	light pink flower	Jun-Jul	bee, butterfly, hummingbird
PF	Pyrolanthus tenuifolius	narrow leaf mountain mint	white flower, fragrant lvs	Jul-Sept	bee, butterfly
SS	Solidago serotina	late goldenrod	yellow flower	Aug-Sept	skipper butterfly, bird
SI	Solidago nemoralis	early goldenrod	yellow flower	Jul-Aug	bee, butterfly, bird
SL	Symphoricarpos laevis	smooth aster	blue flower	Sept-Oct	bee, butterfly
SN	Symphoricarpos nove-angliae	New England aster	blue flower	Sept-Oct	bee, butterfly
VNI	Verbena hastata	blue verbenal	blue flower	summer	bee, butterfly
VHT	Veronica heteroceras	New York veronica	purple flower, fragrant lvs	Aug-Sept	bee, butterfly

Three Village Garden Club article page 4

Skaneateles Garden Club
 Presents
Art, Music & Garden Tour
 June 28-29, 2019
 For more info:
 Linda Arthur: lamhba@aol.com
 Facebook.com/skaneateles.g.c.



In what has become an annual event, members of the Garden Club of Kinderhook gathered donations at their February meeting to benefit the student food pantries at Ichabod Crane High School and Columbia-Greene Community College. The goal is to provide healthy breakfast, lunch and snack items to the students who utilize the pantries. Taking part in the collection and distribution process are the pictured Club members: Stephanie Lally, Susan Gibson, Marge Laurie, Kathryn Biggs, Kendra Kalsher, Kathleen Albert, Nora Tuttle and Wendy Spielmann.

The Club's annual Plant and Bake Sale is scheduled for the Kinderhook Village Square on May 17 and 18.