

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



AUGUST 2023

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From the Director



As summer winds down, I hope you have taken time to relax and enjoy your gardens with family and friends. Once again, the Third District clubs have done an outstanding job to promote our national initiative “Plant America for a Cleaner, Greener, Healthier World.” Our new state president, Donna Sessa has chosen for her theme, “Plant America: Pollinator Pathways throughout New York State,” a fitting theme considering the declining pollinator species that are critically important to the health of New York’s

agriculture and economy.

The FGCNYS held its 98th Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers in May at the Hyatt Regency Long Island. Donna Sessa was sworn in as our New York State President for 2023–2025 along with Elizabeth (Beth) Walker as First Vice President from our own Third District. Outgoing President Lynne Arnold was recognized and thanked for her dedication, commitment, and extraordinary service during her tenure as NYS President.

On June 15, we held our first Board of Directors meeting for the new administration. With approval from the Executive Board, I appointed Cindy Teator to fill the position of 2nd Assistant Director. Other appointments on the Board included Kris Vogt, Scholarships; Cindy Teator, Membership; and Deborah Teator, Historian. The very vital position of Awards Chairman remains vacant. Please contact me if you are interested in the position. As Chair, you may select an assistant to work with you. Together with the State Awards Chairman and on-line resources, you will quickly become familiar with the process and at the same time, contribute to the success of our District and member clubs. Thank you in advance for saying “yes.”

The April 2022 revision of the Third District Rules of Order has been completed and now appears on the FGCNYS website under the Third District tab labeled “Officers.”

Latest statistics for the Third District are as follows: We are comprised of 17 clubs, with a total membership of just over 470 members. We are currently working to reinstate the Woodstock Garden Club which was dormant for a few years. As always, growth in membership remains a top priority.

CLUBS IN DISTRICT III

District Three Clubs, by County

Albany: Blue Creek, Guilderland, Helderview

Columbia: Germantown

Dutchess: Tioronda

Greene-Schoharie: Athens Community, Clematis, Schoharie Valley

Rensselaer: Greenbush

Schenectady: The Garden Explorers, Country Garden Club of Clifton Park

Ulster: Community Garden Club of Marlborough, New Paltz, Saugerties Society of Little Gardens, Shawangunk, Ulster

(from pg. 1)

Assistant Director Maureen McNamara has worked countless hours on planning for our Annual Fall District meeting in October. From negotiating with the hotel, arranging for a guest speaker, selecting menu options, and soliciting vendors, she has accomplished what will be an enjoyable and memorable event.

Our program speaker is famed floral designer, horticulturist, and holiday décor expert Douglas Koch. I am asking our club presidents to publicize and encourage their members to attend. It would be gratifying to have members representing each of our 17 clubs in attendance at this affair. Further information and the registration form can be found on the last pages of the August Digest. Please register early as we are under strict contractual obligations to adhere to the stated deadline dates.

Take care,

Gary Barrack, Director



Stapelia Gigantea photo of flower and live plant display presented by past FGCNYS President Lynne Arnold, of the Community Garden Club of Marlborough.

Ways & Means & Raffles

by Merrill-Lee Leniger, Guilderland Garden Club

At the June 15 District III Board Meeting, funds raised from Ways & Means and Raffles at the Spring and Fall District Meetings were discussed. There were fewer items at each of these tables than we have seen at past meetings. The items available for each category and the amount raised has been decreasing.

Following a lengthy discussion, members of the Board approved a recommendation to eliminate Ways & Means as this has been done in the past and replace this with another type of Fund Raiser. An example could be a 50/50 raffle, a tag sale, or something else. The fund-raising activity that would be done for future meetings will be decided by the county or counties listed on the District Meeting Schedule.

There is also a change in Raffles. Beginning with the Fall October 2023 meeting, each club that is attending the meeting will be asked to bring a raffle basket. The County/Counties listed will coordinate the set-up of

the raffle items and sale of raffle tickets. If you have any questions on these procedures, you may contact Merrill-Lee Lenegar at merlenegar@gmail.com.



Membership Thoughts

by Cynthia Teator, FGCNYS Third District Membership Chair

We are all thankful for our membership's support and diversity. We are meeting changes through our revitalized programs. Most recently we held our Spring District Meeting with an excellent presentation of "Principles of Sogetsu Ikebana" by Kaye Vosburgh. Kaye shared her strong knowledge and experience in this subject.

Plans are carefully underway for Germantown Garden Club's next standard flower show called "And A Thing Called Love" which will be held on September 9 and 10. You have an opportunity to enjoy a lovely show of flowers, plants, herbs, and vegetables! Our Germantown garden club and the public are invited to participate!

We encourage more participation in our schools, conventions, meetings, and programs. The Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc. Fall Conference is called, "Seven Stars on a Fall Adventure." This will be held on October 23-26.

Our clubs are all connected. Through National Garden Clubs, Inc. you can subscribe for a free online newsletter (www.gardenclub.org) called The National Gardener. The Central Atlantic Region (www.car-sgc.org) and Federated Garden Clubs of NYS (www.fgcny.com) are both at our fingertips!

Mostly all of us are experiencing declining memberships and "aging out" of clubs. We can connect with other areas of the country who may have already dealt with the same issues. We all experience some sort of environmental disasters such as flooding, wildfires, and heat waves. Reaching out to other members in the district, state or nation keeps us connected with like minded gardeners for growing ideas! "Adapt to circumstances to produce growth" - unknown author... actually in my fortune cookie!

SAVE THE DATE!

This year, New York State will host the Central Atlantic Region Annual Conference and Tri-refresher training at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Corning, NY on October 24-26, 2023.

All club members are welcome and encouraged to attend. More information will follow as we approach the date.

Revised Rules of Order Now Available

By Gary Barrack, Director

The Rules of Order for the Third District has been revised. You may recall that some changes were recommended and approved in April, 2021, but never incorporated in a new revised document. Therefore, I have prepared a new document in WORD and PDF files for this purpose. Any future changes can now be made easily in this saved file, rather than re-typing the entire document, as had to be done in this case.

You can find the revised By-laws on the FGCNYS Website by clicking the Third District tab and selecting "Officers," which includes the revised by-laws. Or click **HERE**.



FALL DISTRICT MEETING:

Fallin' in Love with the Holidays

Third District Board of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.

Invites you to the Fall District Meeting

OCTOBER 19, 2023

Best Western Plus, 503 Washington Ave., Kingston, NY, 845-338-0400

REGISTRATION: 9–11:30 a.m.

VENDORS, EXHIBITS, COFFEE, TEA, AND

WATER STATION: throughout the day

FUNDRAISING AND RAFFLE TABLES: 9 a.m.–noon

BUSINESS MEETING: 10–11:15 a.m.

LUNCHEON: 12:15 p.m. \$42

Menu: Choices are: Filet of Flounder with Lemon Caper Butter or Chicken Francaise. All meal choices include Mixed Baby Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette, Whipped Parmesan Potatoes, Rolls and Butter, and Carrot Cake. To drink: Iced or Hot Tea, Coffee or Decaf.

RAFFLE DRAWING: 12:45 p.m.

PROGRAM: 1–2 p.m.

Douglas Koch—Seasonal and Holiday Floral Designs and Techniques

Douglas is a floral designer, horticulturist and holiday decor expert with 30 years experience. He completed Floral Design studies at Lincolnshire College of Art & Design in England, post graduate studies at Catholic University, Washington DC, and further studies at Parsons School of Design. Douglas' clients include NYC restaurants,

hotels, corporations, and celebrities. He has won many wedding design awards including Wedding Wire Couples Choice awards and Manhattan "best of awards." Using flowers, plants, lighting, textiles and other accessories, his horticultural designs transform space into botanical wonderlands; interior plantscapes, holiday and special events decor, and exceptional gardens.

Douglas, a social and environmental activist, is also known for his benevolent work donating flowers to many charities, civic, artistic, spiritual, and animal rights organizations. He founded "Village Flower Power," a not-for-profit. Through flowers he taught people with AIDS how to be creative.

RESERVATIONS: PREPAID AND RECEIVED BY SEPT. 30.

Please allow sufficient time for mail delivery. Send Registration Form with attendees' name and menu choice with one check made out to: Third District, FGCNYS, Inc.

Mail to: Lorna Silinovich, Registrar;

PO Box 726, Saugerties, NY 12477.

ralphswoman72@yahoo.com or 518-947-6286

DIRECTIONS: I-87 (Thruway) south and north to Exit 19.

Follow traffic circle (rotary) to Washington Ave. Hotel is on right, watch for sign!



BLUE CREEK GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Dottie Norvik

Here's a summary of the Blue Creek Garden Club activities for the summer months:

In June we planted flowers around the grounds and building of the Pruyn House where we hold our meetings. We maintain them over the summer.

On July 5, we held a bake sale at one of the Pruyn House's summer concerts in the barn. The leftovers were donated to Street Warriors, a local food pantry group providing weekly meals to the hungry in Troy, NY.

Also in July we visited Story's Nursery in Freehold, NY where we received a tour of the facility and grounds.

In August we will be visiting some private gardens in the area.

Members at the bake sale at the Pruyn House's Summer Concert in the Barn.



NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Margaret McDowell, President

Our May meeting was held at a local senior living facility (Woodland Pond). We had a guest speaker regarding a local Preserve (Millbrook Preserve) and also a discussion of invasive species and their effect on the native species. Residents that attended received various small plantings and we had a tour of the residents' boxed plantings. We hope we can possibly have a yearly meeting at their facility. Our May Plant Sale was successful even though we had to use our rain date. We raised over \$3,000 and this will assist with our Annual Scholarship for a High School student. In June we had a fun and informative Tea Party. One of our members opened her home and gardens up for this event. Members brought desserts and flower bouquets from their gardens. The flower bouquets were judged and then auctioned off for the Scholarship Fund. We welcomed at least 10 new members this year and we inducted many of them at our June meeting. Our new members have already stepped up and assisted with care of our community

gardens and are considering some Board positions. Our programs will resume in the Fall with various field trips such as the Mohonk Mountain House and the Mohonk Preserve Archival collection. Wishing everyone an enjoyable Summer and particularly enjoy your Gardens.



New members being inducted at the June meeting.

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

In 1928, members of the Germantown Garden Club were instrumental in creating the Germantown Library. Starting as a way for the members to share gardening books, over a period of time the collection of books grew. The books were first housed in a local establishment. After a number of years the number of books grew too large to be stored there so the idea of starting a lending library was born. In keeping with the history of those members, the Germantown Garden Club has continued to support the library both financially, with magazine subscriptions and an annual donation of a book on gardening. In recent years, the book donation has been tied with the club's theme for the year. The title of this year's donation is *The Good Garden: How to Nurture Pollinators, Soil, Native Wildlife, and Healthy Food-All in your Own Backyard*, which ties in with the club's theme for 2023 'Birds Bees, Flowers, and Trees'.

For our May meeting we hosted the owner of Shoving Leopard Farm, Marina Michahelles. Marina recounted the evolution of her farm and what she grows, while promoting environmentally and socially sustainable practices. Marina described the process of planting and harvesting her flowers. The farm also offers seasonal flower shares. The flowers are sold through Montgomery Place Orchards in Red Hook as well as to local florists and designers. Another aspect of her operation is a project called Abloom. Abloom is a non-profit project in which flower arrangements are made with the help of volunteers, from flowers donated by local farmers or rescued from weddings and events and delivered to homeless shelters, hospitals, people in hospice and assisted living facilities.



Above, pictured left to right: Fran Bufi, President GGC, Lynn Place, Librarian Germantown Library, Maureen Lockwood, Vice-President GGC, Irene Clum, Member of GGC. Right: Marina Michahelles of Shoving Leopard Farm.

GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Merril-Lee Lenegar, President

Linda Miller, Scholarship Chairperson of the Guilderland Garden Club, awarded the Club's very first scholarship that took place at the Guilderland High School Award Ceremony.

Our Scholarship mission is to help make the planet a better place to live by providing awareness and experience in one of the following fields of study: horticulture, agricultural science, forestry, botany, ecology, environmental science, soil and crop science, natural resource management, land use management, habitat science, and green technology. We know the importance of teaching our young people to be aware of these goals and we want to do a small part by helping them on their career path in one of these fields.

Our 2023 scholarship award recipient is Samuel Webster who is planning to attend The State university of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. This is a public research university in Syracuse focusing on the environment and natural resources. We wish him well as he begins his college studies.



Above: Our scholarship chairperson, Linda Miller, is shown presenting the award to Mr. Webster at the awards ceremony.

Toilet Paper Plant?

by John Haluska, Second Vice President

This is a mullein. It is 8 feet 7 inches tall and still growing. Herbalists use it to treat bronchitis, dry cough, asthma and hoarseness. Recent advances in herbalistic medicine are establishing its health benefits. Ill informed people refer to it as a weed but maybe W.E.E.D. is more appropriate (Wonderfully Elongated Environmental Delight). It is also referred to as "cowboy toilet paper" as its extensive leaves are very soft.



CLEMATIS GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Terry Buel, President

On July 21, many members of the Clematis Garden Club toured the beautiful expansive gardens of the Schoharie Lilly Park and covered bridge, visited the amazing Dr. Best Museum in Middleburgh, and enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Pasta and Grill restaurant in Middleburgh.

In July the Clematis Garden Club had the privilege of being commissioned by The Friends of the Greenville Library to create a memorial garden at the Library in honor of Greenville resident Mary K. Heisinger. On July 18, members were busy planting perennials surrounding the bench placed in Mary's honor. Plants were selected to ensure colorful blooms during the growing seasons.



Top: Visiting the Schoharie Lilly Park. Above: Members enjoy a great lunch. Left: The memorial garden that members created for the Greenville Library.

BLUE STAR MARKER

We held a ceremony on May 20th in Valatie, NY to rededicate our Blue Star Memorial in Columbia County in the town of Kinderhook on State Farm Road.

Local officials Tim Oom, town of Kinderhook supervisor, and our own Renata Benenati and family, including Director Gary Barrack, Third District, and Assistant Cynthia Teator were present. The pledge of allegiance was recited and beautiful geraniums were placed for the memorial. Refreshments were provided by the town of Kinderhook.

It was a fitting tribute to rededicate this marker in support of all those who have served, are serving, and will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.



SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Agnes Rapoli

The Schoharie Valley Garden Club has been busy this spring and summer with increased focus on community outreach to promote and increase awareness of the club and welcome new members.

The season began in March with participation at the annual “Antiques in Schoharie” Expo. The club had an informational and fundraising table. It was a successful day with good sales on the arrangements—folks were glad to have the opportunity to add some sunshine and brightness to their homes after a long and snowy winter!

In April and May our members were busy tending to our spring plantings in public places such as the Cobleskill Centre Park, Middleburgh Art Park, the Schoharie Library, and the Old Stone Fort and Covered Bridge.

June brought our annual flower show at the Schoharie Library. Our show evolved into a joint flower/quilt show with club members designing arrangements inspired by specific quilts made by the Schoharie Valley Piecemakers. For the last two years the event has become the annual Schoharie Library “Arts in Bloom Festival” which now includes not only our floral arrangements and the Piecemaker quilts, but also local artists who work in various mediums, crafters, and vendors of all kinds. This year the club included a perennial sale at the event which proved quite successful and we hope to continue in the future.

July was very busy! To celebrate the Fourth, the club created and donated 240 mini floral arrangements to the Schoharie County Office of the Aging.

Recently the club was granted a small plot in the “Schoharie Lily Park.” In July, we decorated the plot with a rustic angel and plaque in memory of past garden club members. Each year the Lily Park is home to an annual “Lily Festival” which provided another opportunity for us to meet and greet the public. We had an informational booth, sold a variety of perennials, and had great fun interacting with people and pets of all ages!

In August, three master gardeners at Albany County Cooperative Extension gave us an in-depth tour of the gardens at the Voorheesville Extension office. We also participated at “Roots, Rhythm, and Ale,” a fundraiser for the Iroquois Museum.

Throughout the summer we have continued the monthly tradition of awarding “Garden of the Month” to an outstanding home garden within the communities of Schoharie County. Three lovely gardens were recognized for May, June, and July.



Top left: Our table at “Antiques in Schoharie” Expo. Top right: Our booth at the Annual Schoharie Library’s “Arts in Bloom Festival.”

Middle left: An example of our spring plantings. Middle right: Example of one of our flower show arrangements for the Schoharie Library’s Festival.

Left: the club created and donated floral arrangements to the Schoharie County Office of the Aging.

Bottom: One of our “Garden of the Month” recipients.

GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE

by Carol Garver,

Greetings from our County clubs. This has been a challenging summer with poor air quality and too much rain. Despite this we got our community gardens planted and thanks to the rain they are beautiful. Programs have been very successful and field trips to places of interest were educational and enjoyed by all.

Athens Community Garden Club held their Education Program at the E J Arthur Elementary school on May 10 with lessons on plant growth, irrigation, and recycling, as well as a poetry contest. The club awards prizes and publishes a booklet of poems for the student contest winners.

In June the club awarded a scholarship to a graduating student who is pursuing an education in environmental science. Members participated in Athens Community Day by providing information about the club and handing out cherry tomato seedlings.

In August a trip is planned to Blithewood Gardens at Bard College. The club will hold its famous bake sale located at 77 Second St in Athens. This is the day of the annual Athens Garage Day Sale. Get there early as these delicious baked goods are sold out before noon.

The September meeting will feature a program "Lavender Farms" on how to get lavender to winter over by Ron Will of Vingate Farms. In October "Maple Syrup" featuring a program by Allan Joudrin owner of Jourdin's Syrup. Additionally, the annual collection for the Athens Food pantry will take place.

On November 16 the club's major fundraiser the Annual Auction and Luncheon will take place at Pegasus Restaurant located on Rte 9W in Coxsackie. Everyone is welcome to attend this day, meet and greet members, enjoy a delicious meal and bid on fabulous home baked goods and handmade items made by members. More Information will be available at the District Luncheon in October or call Sue Van Buren at 518-444-8281 for a reservation.

Clematis Garden Club The Annual Spring Social in May was well attended. Peter Bowden spoke on Gardening with Organics, amending soil, and biodiversity.



In June, the club held their annual Plant Sale and White Elephant Sale of Collectables and Antiques. All plants were grown by members. Also in June, the club presented a Horticulture Award to a graduating senior from an area high school.

In August the club's Annual Picnic took place at Athens Riverfront Park. On September 15 a program on "Climate Change" featuring speaker educator and Master Gardener Mary Anne Iaccino will be held.

The Club will participate in Greeneville Days on September 22 and 23 providing information on activities and programs.

October 20 program "Gardening and Growing Then and Now" will feature speaker Mary Lou Nahas, historian and published author as well as a longtime Clematis Garden Club member and past club president.

On November 17 the Holiday Luncheon will be held at Past and Grill in Middleburgh. Members will share photographs and memories at this long awaited get together. The annual collection of socks will be donated to a senior program.

Schoharie Valley Club In June a flower show "Arts in Bloom" was held at the Schoharie Library. The club continued its annual Garden Therapy by sending floral arrangements accompanying Meals on Wheels to homebound residents in July.

In August a field trip to Lavender Manor Farm in Cobleskill took place. September events include a program on Raised Bed Gardens by Berni Dooley at the Cobleskill Cooperative Ext. and the Garage, Plant and Bake Sale will be held at 139 Bridge Street home of Marie Muller. In October a field trip is planned to Garden Bug in Amsterdam.

In December a tree will be decorated by members for Festival of Trees a NYS Power Authority in Blenheim. December 6 the Annual Luncheon and Boutique "A Berry Merry Christmas" will be held from noon to 4 PM at Sablewood Highview Farms in Schoharie.

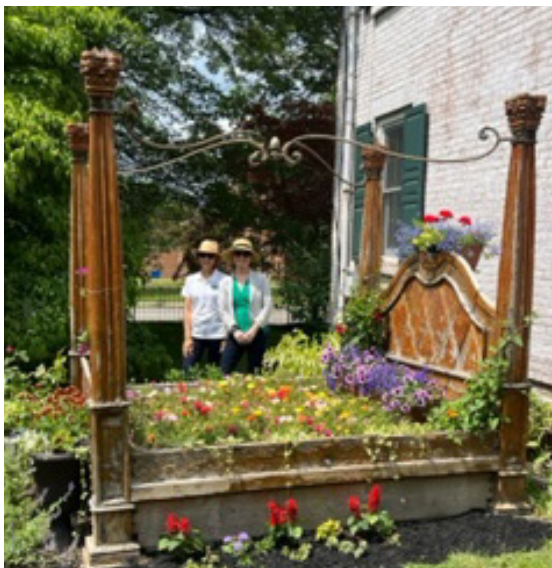
TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack, County Chairman

On June 10, the Tioronda Garden Club held its first “Secret Gardens of Beacon” fundraising tour. A total of seven gardens were included. In addition to the funds raised, the club attracted three new members and inspired other residents to request that their gardens be included in next year’s tour. Club members served as docents. This self-guided tour featured several different styles of gardens in Beacon.

In August, the Club will be taking a trip to Pollepel Island on the Hudson River in Beacon for a tour of the historic Bannerman Castle ruins and the beautiful gardens there.



Top: The “Flower Bed” garden at the “Secret Gardens of Beacon” fundraising tour. Above Left: The “Garage Gallery” garden. Above Right: The “River View” garden.

Below Left: The Bannerman Castle ruins and gardens. Photo by Susan Girola

Gardening With Nature in Mind

By Joan McKeon, Guilderland Garden Club

My gardening is about helping nature. It used to be that nature didn't need help, but it does now. Chemicals, LAWNS, and sprawl are displacing and killing wildlife at an alarming rate. I feel the best thing I can do is create a sanctuary for birds, insects, and other little creatures. When I moved in, I approached my barren patchy grass yard as a three-alarm disaster needing help STAT. After last year's drought, I hoped for rain, and I got it this summer: watering last year's plantings and this year's. This year's garden is great. I want to tell you about it.

The Redbud, Serviceberry, Plum, Black Cherry, and Crabapple trees are the very welcome first bloomers. Other first sources of nectar for the early bee pollinators and a few overwintering butterflies are flowering shrubs and mine should be coming into their own next spring. I've provided "pollinator partners" for those that need them and many should be old enough to make berries. The Viburnums, Dogwoods, Chokecherries, Blueberries, Button Bush, Winterberry, and Hops tree will provide a lot of pollen and nectar in early summer before they make their berries. Holes in the leaves of these trees and shrubs means that caterpillars are here for the birds to eat.

When it warms up and flowers bloom, the hummingbirds and butterflies will join the hardworking bees, Hawk moths, and the amazing shiny blue wasps. I have had 6–7 different species of butterflies this summer. The pink Bee Balm, that is over 6' tall is a favorite for all these creatures, as is the delicious smelling Agastache planted next to it. When the Bee Balm gets white mildew on it, I mix baking soda and water and pour that on it on a cloudy day when rain is not expected. The dark pink Phlox is also a fragrant favorite. The pink Coneflowers are loved by bees and butterflies, but hummingbirds prefers the very tall yellow Prairie Coneflower and the Honeysuckle vine on my metal arch. The hummingbirds like red so I planted Cardinal Flower in my one moist spot. If you plant the right flowers, hummingbirds will fly close to your face as if to get a closer look at this wonderful and mysterious provider. The very yellow Lance Leaf Coreopsis is always covered in bees and the early seed is eaten daily by goldfinches. Bees and a variety of wasps are drawn to the Mountain Mints and the unusual looking Dotted Bee Balm. Volunteer Black Eyed Susans are a vigorous plant and a must-stop on the pollinator route. Look at them closely and you will see tiny little pollinators, just slightly larger than ants.

When the fall comes, Goldenrod, Asters, Joe Pie Weed, Boneset, Prairie Blazing Star, Blue Mist Flower, Milkweed, and Helenium are on the menu. Birds benefit from this abundance in caterpillars on



leaves, under leaf crawlers, seed, berries and flying insects looking for low lush vegetation. When plants aren't growing and leaves are too full of holes, I give the plant a little fertilizer made from all organic ingredients.

All of the above plants are native species plants except the Viburnum cultivar I needed to pollinate my Nannyberry bushes. I planted a few non-native plants that I know to be popular sources of nectar and pollen: "Lady in Red" and "Rockin the Blues" Salvias, Zinnias, tall Verbena, Borage, Senna, and Comfrey. I sowed a lot of Wild Blue Flax seed last year, thinking it was native to NY. It grew and gave me beautiful blue flowers all summer.

I put up a lot of wide gauge hog fence and individual cages and that is the only way I can have some of these plants. Fence is not all bad: the hummers and birds use it to access hard to reach flowers, to rest and look around. It protects the plants when it stands straight up in snow while cheaper chicken wire goes down in the snow. The groundhog could dig under or go around my fence but she usually stays outside it. I don't think she sets out to eat the Golden Alexander but eats whatever she finds as she goes. Because I have left a lot of native growth standing, I see the rabbit and the groundhog making a meal of that instead of my plants. When pine cones fall, I put them where the squirrels can find them later. I have two birdbaths in an overgrown corner of the yard that I rinse daily and scrub sometimes.

I let all dried vegetation stand until warm May weather because it is seed and shelter and when I have to "clean up" in the spring, I put all the vegetation into a pile in my yard, eventually to go back into the soil. With the house came a jungle in the far back yard that I try to contain; the animals love the shelter but it's full of invasives. I do what I can do.

I mowed the lawn twice this summer for 10 minutes each time.

What does a Monarch Butterfly, Caterpillar, and Chrysalis Look Like?

by Jean Horn, Wildflower Committee Chair

Monarch butterflies are not hard to find, they are usually flitting among milkweeds and other flowers. They are a beautiful golden color banded by a polka dot black color.

Monarchs only lay their eggs on milkweed plants and their larvae only eat them as well. There are many varieties including common milkweed, swamp milkweed, showy milkweed, tropical milkweed, or butterfly weed. If you see holes in the leaves of a milkweed plant, there probably have been larvae living there. Look for small black dots which will eventually have small caterpillars emerge. They have a distinctive yellow-white and black stripes and will grow to almost 3-inches long and finally undergo a metamorphosis to become a beautiful butterfly. Monarch chrysalis blend in well. They have a

smooth green shell with gold accents and might be hanging on a leaf or twig.

The caterpillar becomes a butterfly while still in the chrysalis.

The chrysalis becomes transparent and the butterfly will emerge. After drying its wings, it will flutter off looking for nectar and another milkweed plant to lay its eggs.

The monarch that emerges in early fall is a Super Monarch and flies all the way to the southern states, Mexico, and even Central America! When the Monarch returns north in the spring, it flies a distance, stops, lays its eggs, and dies. The eggs go through metamorphosis and the new butterfly flies a distance farther north. This continues until the butterfly arrives at its designated area. Monarch Butterflies are amazing!



Top left: Monarch butterfly on milkweed flower. Top right: milkweed pods. Bottom left: chrysalis. Bottom right: caterpillar

Clubs' Calendar 2023-24

September 9-10, 2023

Germantown Garden Club Flower Show
Kellner Activity Building
Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY

October 19, 2023

District III Fall Meeting
Best Western Plus
503 Washington Avenue, Kingston, NY

October 23-26, 2023

CAR Conference
Radisson/Doubletree Hotel
125 Denison Parkway E, Corning, NY

November 16, 2023

Athens Garden Club's Annual Auction Fundraiser
Pegasus Restaurant
Rt 9W, Coxsackie, NY

December 2-3, 2023

Germantown Garden Club Christmas Market
The First Reformed Church Parsonage
52 Maple Avenue, Germantown, NY

December 6, 2023

*Schoharie Valley Garden Club's
Annual Luncheon and Boutique*
Sablewood Highview Farms
Schoharie, NY

PARTING SHOT



The Chinese Garden at Staten Island's Snug Harbor Botanical Garden.
Photo by Karin Janson

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). The February Digest only features the Spring District Meeting.

Please send news of your club's activities, events, and plans—it's a great way to share what you are doing with other clubs. Unlike print newsletters, there is no prohibitive cost factor for using color, so send in your photos. Articles on various gardening and flower arranging topics are especially welcome.

Material for *The Digest* should be sent to Karin Janson via email at kjanson@aol.com.

To access *The Digest*, go to the State website—fgcnys.com—select District III on the home page and then select Digest Online.



Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. Third District
Registration Form for Fall Meeting and Luncheon
Fallin' in Love with the Holidays • October 19, 2023
Best Western Plus, 503 Washington Ave., Kingston, NY • 845-338-0400

Greetings! Clubs, please complete this form.

- Each club is to provide a printed list of attendees' names, noting selected entrée for each. **Diet restrictions can be accommodated if pre-arranged by submitting a written request with this form.**
- Enclose one check covering the group amount, payable to: Third District, FGCNYS, Inc.
Cost for luncheon is \$42.
- ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE PREPAID AND RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 30.
- Questions regarding registration? Contact Lorna Silinovich at 518-947-6286 or email: ralphswoman72@yahoo.com
- Mail form and check to Third District Registrar: Lorna Silinovich, PO Box 726, Saugerties, NY 12477
- Would your club like a reserved table? _____ Specify for 8 or 10: _____

Club Name: _____ Date: _____

Club Contact Person to call if questions arise regarding this registration:

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Number Attending: _____ Amount of Enclosed Check: _____

Members Names (Please Print):

✓ Flounder ✓ Chicken

Continue on back of page. Thank you!

Club Name: _____

Continued from front:

Members Names (Please Print): ✓ Flounder ✓ Chicken
