

Come meet our speakers at the 99th Annual Meeting of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS.

Each of our speakers is an expert in their field and loves to share their experiences, techniques, and art with others. Our speakers were chosen to reflect the interests of our members. Who would not want to learn the skills and tricks of taking great nature photographs, especially if there is a flower show with a photography class in your future? And who among us would not like a few tips on how to size our gardens so we can manage them for years to come? Our speakers will provide these tips and tricks so plan to join us in Albany on May 6th and 7th for our Annual Meeting and Convention.

Stay to celebrate our 100th Anniversary and begin to imagine what our next 100 years can look like.

Our first speaker is Lori Adams.

Lori's background is in art and science. She received her BA in Photography at Bard College with studies in art and science (math, electricity, and physics). She has studied Imaging Science at the graduate level at Rochester Institute of Technology and taught photography for 10 years at the college level. She is most happy when working outdoors moving dirt, weeding, or planning a new project. A runner-up to that happiness is when she is working on a photo project in her studio or has a camera in her hand. Currently freelance commercial photography has her behind-the-scenes in many places she would not normally get to see.



She also gets to photograph artwork, professional landscaping, and garden designs for children's science books and for gardening books. She enjoys sharing her work through exhibits and teaching.

Lori's books include *Timeless Triops: A Prehistoric Creature* (2014), *Little flowers with Big Attitude* (2014), *Triops – a very unusual creature* (2009) and *Look, Ask & Learn About Butterflies* (2010). She also has 15+ books in English and Spanish for the NYS Science 21 Curriculum.

Lori will share her methods and results using composition, color and light both outdoors and in her studio. Throughout her presentation she will talk about lighting, color and composition and how basic design principles and curiosity about plants guide her image-making. Lori uses compelling imagery and common-sense analogies to help you advance your understanding of what is possible, to increase your confidence and to encourage you to explore and experiment.

You will not want to miss this program!

Next up on Monday is Kerry Mendez



Where to start? Kerry Ann is a 'passionate perennialist' with over 25 years of hands-on experience. As a consultant, designer, and teacher, she specializes in low-maintenance, sustainable garden and landscape design, incorporating perennials, ornamental grasses, flowering shrubs, bulbs, and no-fuss annuals. Kerry believes in Powering Up Garden Beauty and Powering Down Garden Maintenance, something that will appeal to all of us, by using amazing perennials and flowering shrubs that provide much more color than commonly planted varieties while needing less backbreaking

maintenance. These underused beauties (many of which are natives or nativars) are pollinator friendly and most require less water. Enjoy more time relaxing with family and friends as they admire your handiwork! Kerry Ann is the author of several popular gardening books: *The Budget-Wise Gardener: Plant the Best for Less!* (St. Lynn's Press, 2018); *The Right-Size Flower Garden: Simplify Your Outdoor Space with Smart Design Solutions and Plant Choices* (St. Lynns Press, 2015); *Flower Gardener's Top Ten Lists: 70 garden-transforming theme lists and strategies for growing gorgeous, low-maintenance gardens*; and *Top Ten Lists for Beautiful Shade Gardens*.

In 2014 she received the Gold Medal Award from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society recognizing individuals who have contributed to excellence in horticulture. Kerry Ann was specifically acknowledged for "Exceptional teaching and writing that increases public enjoyment and appreciation of horticulture."

Owner of Perennially Yours, LLC, Kerry Ann is an entertaining, inspirational, and educational speaker who enjoys mingling humor with down-to-practicality. She is the national spokesperson for Proven Winners and Espoma national brands and is sponsored by The American Horticultural Society, Proven Winners, and Gardener's Supply Company



Kicking off the Program on Tuesday Following the Annual Meeting is Michele Peters of Ambiance Floral and Event



Michele has a passion for the flower world. Whether designing a dream wedding or creating a birthday arrangement, all her experience, energy, and creativity are reflected in every design. She was inducted into AIFD (American Institute of Floral Designers) in 2016 and is a CFD (Certified Floral Designer) in this elite organization.

Michele has been a favorite presenter at many local garden clubs and at district meetings. Her designs are creative, expressive, and always beautiful.

She considers herself a work in progress as she continues her education and learns new things to do with flowers.

Wrapping up our program is Carl Heilman II.

Outdoor photographer Carl Heilman II has lived in the Adirondacks in upstate New York since he moved to the region in 1973 to live in his parents' summer home. He has been photographing the wilderness landscape since 1975, working to capture on film both the grandeur of these special places, and the emotional and spiritual connection he has felt. His passion for spending as much time as possible



in some of the wildest regions of the Adirondacks soon became a lifelong quest to create images that record the essence of a true wilderness experience and help convey that feeling to others. Today he is a full time professional outdoor nature photographer.

His first coffee table book, *Adirondacks: Views of an American Wilderness* was published in June, 1999, by Rizzoli International Publications, Inc. This beautiful 166 page book features both panoramic images and standard format photography to portray some very unique and special views of the Adirondack Park. Since then, he has photographed for 3 books on New York State - **Wild New York** (2005), **Our New York** (2006), and **Backroads of New York** (2007); all with Voyageur Press. He was also selected as one of 39 photographers to be included in *The Best of Nature Photography* - a photography book that includes images and tips from some of the top professional photographers in the country. Some of his many other books include *The Adirondacks* (2006 - Rizzoli), *Lake George* (2009 - North Country Books), and *The Coast of Maine* (Rizzoli - 2009).

Carl will be sharing those tips and techniques with us as he leads a tour to Albany's Washington Park, where preparations will be underway for the annual Tulip Festival with thousands of tulips planted in a rich variety of colors and forms, all surrounded by the backdrop of spring-flowering trees.



Don't forget to stay for our 100th Anniversary Gala!