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Director's Message

This fall is going to be busy if you take part in all the activities which are offered. First of all our District III board meeting is on August 15th at Pegasus. Board members should have received a notice about that meeting in mid-July. If you haven't received it please e-mail me or call me.

Next, the FGCNYS Fall Conference is being held at the Radisson Hotel in Corning. Registration begins on Tuesday, September 10, from noon to 2:30 p.m. You can be a part-time or full-time participant. Registration will continue on Wednesday and Thursday, if those days offer something which appeals to you. A brochure with meeting details and schedule is available on the FGCNYS website, downloadable as either a PDF or a Word document.

Tuesday is for those who want to blow their own pumpkin. Corning is noted for it's glass, so arrangements have been made with an independent glass blower who has hired extra help to guide those of us who want to try blowing our own pumpkin. Glass blowing will begin at 3 p.m. You must be registered and pre-paid (\$25) to do the glass blowing.

The third event is our own District III Fall Meeting, "Colors of Autumn" on October 17 at Birch Hill in Schodack. It promises to be outstanding. All of your presidents have information on the meeting, and I am hoping to see many of you there. Please let me know if your president has not received any information and I will personally see that you get it.

Note to all clubs in Schenectady County: Since you

do not have a County Chair, my staff is trying to reach every club in your county by using the name of the president who served last. Please, if you are receiving information for your club, will you get it to the proper person and have that person, hopefully your club president, get all their board information to me. If anyone in Schenectady County is willing to be County Chair, please call me or email me. A County Chair is really necessary to make our communication system work.

At our District Spring Meeting the Pine Plains Club received an award for their flower show schedule. The schedule and the award could not be given to the club since there was no member present at the meeting. The paperwork was scooped up by someone and, much to my distress, that person apparently

continued on page 2

Croquet, Anyone? *See page 13*



See page

does not realize that they have this material. If you were at the head table on that day will you please go through your papers from the meeting, and if you find the Pine Plains material will you send it to that club and inform Patricia Blundell, our Awards Chairperson. The club needs the schedule because they want it as a guide for their next show, which is already being planned.

I want to give you workshops that you need. Please discuss this at a club meeting and then send me a list of workshops your members want. My ideas for workshops may not be yours, but my board and I will do our very best to give you the ones for which you ask. Don't wait to do this. I need the information for the board meeting in August.

I need one more thing. The state president has given me a very large piece of poster board. On that I am to make a collage of pictures taken of all of my clubs. Maybe a picture of your group at work on a project, maybe gardening, maybe partying. Send me your pictures soon, as I need to take the collage to the state meeting in September. Be certain to put a note on the back of each picture, giving your club's name and what the picture is about.

Now, the business part of the message is done and I want you to know that I truly enjoy going to your meetings because I get greeted and hugged by all of you whom I already know. It is so nice to see you and find out from you how things are going. If you don't know me yet, please seek me out, introduce yourself, tell me what club you represent and how the club is doing. That is my job and I enjoy it. See you soon.

Olive Felio

Garden Therapy

If you have garden therapy in your club's program then just let me know what you do. Garden therapy can be programs held at nursing homes or working with home-bound people in your community. Many of

our clubs do an excellent job, and I hope to help those who don't do garden therapy become involved in it.

First, let us establish what a garden therapy program is. There are rules set up by National Garden Clubs as to the contents of a garden therapy program as presented by a federated garden club. It is a program designed to help clubs in planning and producing a garden-related program of activities for handicapped persons. The garden therapy program was formally structured in 1951 and has become one of National Garden Clubs' major activities. There is a difference between a therapy project and a therapy program. We, as garden clubs, should aim for a program rather than a project, but that depends on the makeup of your club, the ages of your members, the availability of getting around and the number of members available to do the project.

How to get started:

- 1) Does the club want to do it?
- 2) How many people would be available to work?
- 3) Do you have in your area facilities that would benefit from garden therapy projects?
- 4) Start with a committee to look at what is in your area. Then speak with a person in each facility, Do they want what you have to offer?
- 5) Does the facility have a large room in which you could meet?
- 6) Are they even interested?
- 7) Is the site within a reasonable driving distance?
- 8) What does your club want to do?

Garden-Related Activities:

- 1) Planting and caring for a plant, if in a nursing home; it could be a small plant for the patient's bedside table or for a window sill.
- 2) Artistic use of plants and/or natural material. This could be letting them arrange flowers for their rooms.
- 3) Study birds, nature and conservation.
- 4) Handwork — terrariums, dish gardens, wall plaques, flower arrangements.

Jean Smith, Garden Therapy
15 Presidential Dr.
Kinderhook, NY 12106-0500
(518) 758-8473

The new FGCNYS Office Manager is Lora Morrow. The address remains the same: Regency Park Apartments, 104F Covent Gardens, Guilderland NY 12084; telephone (518) 869-6311. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 to 4:30.

2013-15 FGCNYS Elected Officers

President

Gail McGee, 4750 Sawmill Road, Clarence 14031-2260; (716) 759-6147; NYDistrict8@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Pat Wania, 19 Pine Orchard Road, Hague 12836-2030; (518)543-8046; hagueheritagehouse@msn.com

2nd Vice President

Monica Hansen, 21 Henning Drive, Orchard Park 14127-2816; (716) 667-1434; johnmonica@verizon.net

3rd Vice President

Tony Antes, 545 Conklin Forks Road, Conklin 13748-1631; (607) 775-3831; antes@stny.rr.com

Recording Secretary

Lynne Arnold, 68 Merritt Lane, Newburgh 12550; (845) 787-5220; larnold@ix.netcom.com

Corresponding Secretary

Anne Doherty, 1 Farm Lane, Cazenovia 13035-9698; (315) 655-4824; annescape@windstream.net

Treasurer

Charlotte Spiers, 139 Oliver Road, Bedford 10506-1542; (914) 234-3626; cbs139@msn.com

Assistant Treasurer

Carol Anderson, 1025 Strong Road, Victor 14564-9124; (585) 924-5687; cha1937@frontiernet.net

The **Garden Explorers Club** in Niskayuna, will present several community service programs during this year. The next such program will be:

Ikebana Demonstration by Kaye Vosburgh

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

7:00 p.m.

The First Reformed Church, 8 North Church Street (in the Stockade)

Schenectady, NY 12305



Kaye is the founder of Garden Explorers and a master Sogetsu Ikebana 1st Grade teacher. She has taught and exhibited throughout the US and internationally. She will be making nine arrangements. A raffle will be held for the flowers of eight of these, and one will be raffled intact. There will be a \$5 charge to attend, which includes coffee, tea and refreshments.

If you would like to attend, please respond by November 5 to Sylvia Cosgrove, jnscos@nycap.rr.com or phone (518) 785-8351.

Club News

Clematis

Summer is a busy time for the Clematis Garden Club. For our May 10 meeting member Cynthia Willis gave us a tour of her wonderful garden. Everyone got to take home a plant. On May 25 our annual plant sale in Greenville was a great success in spite of rain and cold.



On May 27 our second Blue Star Memorial Marker was dedicated in Greenville. Pictured are Eleanor Werking; Mary Lou Nahas, Clematis president; Jean Horn, District III Blue Star Chairman; Joan Radley.

For our June 14 meeting we visited the Greene Bee Greenhouse in Cornwallville. Eli Joseph-Hunter and Briana Davis gave us a tour of their property and told us about the various trees they grow and the perennials they have for sale. When it started to rain, they invited us into their home and were nice enough to say it was no problem to have 30 unexpected wet gardeners in their house eating and having a meeting.



Our June 19 Garden Tour was a wonderful success. The six gardens were exceptional, as always.

Visit us online: Look for us on Facebook (Clematis Garden Club) or Google fgcny, District III, and Digest for our news on line.

Mary Lou Nahas

Greenport

Richard R. Burstell, Extension Program Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties was guest speaker at the Greenport Garden Club's meeting on June 6th at the Hudson Boat Launch. His presentation on invasive aquatic plants and accumulation of nutrient materials leading to excessive growth of algae heightened the awareness of harmful aquatic plants in our area that invade our ponds. Maintenance strategies and options in the invasion were discussed.

Richard R. Burstell and club member Carolyn West



At their July meeting, club members toured the gardens of Barbara Brosen Budelman of Ghent. The gardens, with unique features and exquisite designs, were vibrant with perennials, flowering shrubs, vines, stone walks and arbors. The tour, hosted by Mrs. Budelman, was followed by delicious cakes and iced drinks in al fresco dining area. The yearly scheduled garden club field trips provide members with insight into various garden designs and techniques and an opportunity to meet master gardeners and designers.



Left to right: Judy Zink, Marge Groll, Barbara Brosen Budelman, Nancy Westbrook, Dot Brown, Carolyn West, Joann Concra, Cynthia Atkinson, Yetta Teo, Sue Dillhoff, Maryann Iaccino, Charles Dillhoff, Angela Rapp and Agnes LaSalvia

In its fifth consecutive year, the Greenport Garden Club is brightening the lobby of the Columbia County Department of Human Services in Hudson with mixed flower bouquets. Each Monday morning a new arrangement arrives designed by an individual garden club member. The best part is the flowers are picked from each of the member's gardens. For twelve consecutive weeks garden club members are taking turns designing arrangements and delivering them early on Monday mornings to the lobby. The program was started five years ago by club member Cynthia Atkinson and runs from June to the end of September. "We love to cut flowers from our gardens and arrange them for the public to see, and sharing them is such a pleasure. That's what we are all about" states Cynthia.

Maria Kolodziej-Zincio



Greenport Garden Club member Betsy Hamilton with her arrangement of oak leaf hydrangeas and Russian sage.
Photo- Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

Kinderhook

The Garden Club of Kinderhook held its annual plant and baked goods sale Saturday, May 11, on the Kinderhook Village square. This spring fundraising event has been held for decades and supports the community outreach activities of the club, such as garden maintenance at the Martin Van Buren gravesite, the Valatie Triangle and the Chatham Library; the garden therapy programs at the Payn Residence, book donations to area libraries and floral design workshops at the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

The plant sale featured a large selection of perennials, annuals, cut flowers in vases, gardening books and homemade baked goods, jams and chutneys. New to the sale this year were the ever-popular fairy gardens. In addition, raffle tickets were sold for three themed baskets.

From left: Katherine Tucker, Dawn Tuttle, Muriel Kraus, Lynn O'Leary, Kathy Biggs, Jessica Klein and Carol Carlson, standing, with Helen Slade and Jeannette Frantz, seated..



In June club members visited Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, in Manchester, Vermont.

Garden Club of Kinderhook plant sale volunteers Sandy Wooding, Carolyn Beveridge, Vivian Wachsberger, Dolly Shivers, Sue Sweet, Pat Lafountain and Maryann Weber.



A Fourth of July celebration was the theme when the Garden Club of Kinderhook's Garden Therapy Committee - Kathy Biggs, Dawn Tuttle and Carol Carlson - visited the Louis F. Payn Foundation's Retirement Residence in Chatham. Residents made lovely bouquets for their dining room tables.



Fran Heaney

Pine Plains

Our Spring Luncheon for members and their guests was held at The Pond restaurant in Ancramdale on April 11. We had our annual plant sale on May 18. Members and friends of the garden club dig up plants from our gardens to sell along with several dish gardens created by member Mary Briggs.



Club member Mary Briggs plants flower boxes for Memorial Day

On May 23 members planted twenty one barrels and three window boxes in town. Member Helena Dreeban saw to it that the planters and entrance planting at our local cemetery were finished in time for Memorial Day. We also prepare six Memorial Day arrangements for distribution to Pine Plains and the surrounding towns for their Memorial Day observances.



Planting at the Pine Plains/Stissing Lake Town Beach



A field trip for members and their guests to the Beatrix Farrand Gardens at Bellefield in Hyde Park took place on July 18.

Our flower show "Flowers For Every Room" will be held Oct. 11 from 12-6 and Oct. 12 from 11-3 at the Stissing Mountain High School on Route 199 in Pine Plains. Our show is held each year at the same time as our Future Farmers of America Fair. There's plenty to see: antique car show, tractor pull, food booths, and several exhibits. Admission is free, and everyone is invited.

Thanks to member Vicki LoBrutto, we now have our own website: www.pineplainsgardenclub.org. Take a few minutes to visit our site - you'll find a lot of interesting information.

Joan Syler

Habitat for Humanity

First of all, to work with families who move into a Habitat for Humanity home you must be close enough to reach out to them. Most of the Habitat work is done in cities, not in a country setting. Troy has Habitat as does Hudson. If you don't know if there is one near you, here is the address to use for further information:

Capital District Habitat for
Humanity
454 North Pearl St.
Albany, NY 12204
Tel: (518) 462-2993

Garden club involvement can be as easy as containers planted with colorful plants or can involve landscaping an entire property. Many nurseries when made aware of the purpose of our garden clubs will offer to donate plants. It never hurts to let the nursery know what your club is doing.

Jean Smith,
Habitat for Humanity

Check out National Garden Clubs' quarterly electronic publication *Keeping In Touch*. It's available as a download from their website: gardenclub.org.

You came to my garden, all on your own.
Found your way into my soil., made it your home.
I saw a strange plant, not sure if it be a weed.
I knew it be a stranger, I had not planted a seed.

You grew in inches, then measured by feet.
I was excited...something new...this is neat!
Up to my waist, then you were shoulder high.
You seemed to be reaching for the bright blue sky.

There were a dozen stalks, thick with leaves.
Almost a bush, pretty as you please.
Buds were forming, excitement grew.
What was this plant, that dropped down from the blue?

Color was showing, each with deep purple fringe.
My heart was racing, as if I were on a binge
By now the flowers were like fall asters.
All deep purple, that grew in the pastures.

Every branch had flowers, buzzing with bees.
Like a huge bouquet for a giant, if you please.
My memory searched back to days when as a lass.
Wild flowers in fields and marshes, before my eyes did pass.

Finally the panorama stopped, a picture was forming.
Get out the books, my thoughts were storming.
I paged through the books, one after another.
At last its picture and name - of course - oh brother!

I knew it, I knew it, it had been such a long time.
A fall flower, now blooming in it's prime.
Can you picture this beauty, that came to live with me?
That grew and grew like my family tree.

My friends, the birds, must have dropped the seed.
They knew I could tell it from a weed.

Betty-Jean Stinner

Can you identify Betty-Jean's mystery guest? See page 14.

Fall District Meeting

Colors of Autumn

October 17, 2013 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

at

Birch Hill, One Celebration Way, Schodack, NY 12033

Presenter: Douglas J. Koch

is a world-renowned floral designer, with experience in both Europe and the United States. He has been chosen as the florist for many of New York City's finest hotels and restaurants. He has an upstate studio and home in Athens. With each event, he makes use of his exceptional talents while incorporating the highest standards of efficiency and ethics.

Luncheon and Program - \$35

Menu

Salad: Birch Hill House.

Appetizer: Fresh melon wrapped in prosciutto with lime.

Entree Choices:

Breast of chicken, stuffed with sweet potatoes.

Grilled flank steak marinated in Italian seasoning, with a cabernet demi glaze.

Roasted vegetable ravioli with smoked gouda cheese sauce.

Dessert: Boston Cream Cake.

Prepay and mail by Oct. 10. One check per club, with the names of club members and guests and their choice of entrée. Make checks payable to Third District FGCNYS and send to:

Yetta Teo, 4193 Route 9, Hudson, NY, 12534 (518) 828-3706.

Calendar Girl

August

Germantown Garden Club

Aug. 20 Verdigris Tea Shop, 135 Warren St., Hudson NY—Speaker, Kim Bach on Herbal Teas. More information, call Fran (518) 537-4868

Community Garden Club of Marlborough-On-Hudson

Aug. 7 Foraging, presented by Roger Flaum, identifying plants we could harvest and use for medicinal purposes. More information, call (845) 787-5220

Shawangunk Garden Club

Aug 5 Classes on Flower Show and Floral Design, instructor Barbara Campbell, at Community Room of the Ellenville Public Library, 7 p.m.

Aug. 10 Wild Blueberry Festival, downtown Canal St., Ellenville—club's booth. More information, call Frances (845) 647-9059

Blue Creek Garden Club

Aug. 7 Irish Night - Hair of the Dog concert, Pruyne House, Latham, 6:30 p.m. More information, call Michelle (518) 495-8042

September

Community Garden Club of Marlborough-on-Hudson

Sept. 4 Speaker: Mark Miller, photographer and author of the book **A Great American Treasure and Panorama of the Hudson River**. More information, call Lynne (845) 787-5220

Pine Plains Garden Club

Sept. 5 Miniature Design Workshop and Terrarium or Dish Gardens. More information, call Nancy (518) 398-7328

Greenport Garden Club

Sept. 5 Pick Your Own Bouquet, River Garden, South Cairo. More information, call Kathy (518) 828-9210

Shawangunk Garden Club

Sept. 10 Exhibiting in the Design and Table Design - classes at Community Room, Ellenville Public Library, 40 Center St., Ellenville. Open meeting. More information: call Prances (845) 647-9059

Germantown Garden Club

Sept. 10 Trip to Stonecrop Gardens, 81 Stonecrop Ln. Cold Spring.
More information, call Fran (518) 537-4868

Helderview Garden Club

Sept. 11 Bluebird House Workshop - come build a bird house. More information, call Paula (518) 765-3226

Tongore Garden Club

Sept. 12 House Plant care before the Winter. More information, call Sue (518) 657-8271

Clematis Garden Club

Sept. 13 Making Arrangements from the Gardens. More information, call Mary Lou (518) 722-8073

H. Gilbert Harlow Garden Club

Sept. 14 Trip to NY Botanical Gardens, More information, call Gail (518) 377-8364

New Paltz Garden Club

Sept. 16 ABC of Flower Arranging. More information., call Marilyn (845) 255-1620

Germantown Garden Club

Sept. 17 Speaker: Mark Howell, chef , will talk and do a cooking demo about "Not Your Usual Herbs."
More information, call Fran (518) 537-4868

October

Greenport Garden Club

Oct.3, 6 p.m. Greenport Town Hall, "Terrarium for You." More information, call Carolyn (518) 828-2162

Blue Creek Garden Club

Oct. 3, 1 p.m. Gorgeous Terrariums, Pruyn House, Latham, presented Audrey Hawkins. More information, call Michelle (518) 495-8042

Helderview Garden Club

Oct. 4 Speaker: Melanie Mason of Longlesson Farm/North Country Daylilies. More information, call Victoria (518) 765-5610

The Garden Club of Kinderhook

Oct. 8 Reneta Benenatai will conduct a workshop, on dried flower arrangements. More information, call Reneta (518) 758-7789

Pine Plains Garden Club

Oct.11- 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Oct. 12- 11a.m.-3 pm.
Flower Show at Stissing Mt. Jr./Sr. High School, West Church St., Pine Plains. More information, call Nancy (518) 398-7328

Clematis Garden Club

Oct. 11 Creating a Sustainable Garden. More information, call Mary Lou (518) 722-8073

Hugh Plat Garden Club

Oct. 18 Workshop for Historical Society Christmas Tree. More information, call Betty (518)-374-6490

New Paltz Garden Club

Oct.21 - 7 p.m.
Structure for Winter Garden, presented by Deb Gray from Victoria Garden Nursery in Rosendale. More information, call Marilyn (845) 255-1620

November

Helderview Garden Club

Nov. 1 Fred Breglia from the Landis Arboretum in Esperance will speak about new and unusual ornamental varieties. More information, call Victoria (518) 765-5610

Community Garden Club of Marlborough-on-Hudson

Nov.6 Flower Designer Janette Burgess from La Bella Rosa Flower Shop, Beacon. More information, call Lynne (845) 787-5220

Pine Plains Garden Club

Nov. 7 Festival of Trees. More information: call Nancy (518) 398-5369

The Garden Club of Kinderhook

Nov. 7 Fall Chrysanthemum Show at Smith College. More information, call Cynthia (518) 784-4216

Greenport Garden Club

Nov. 7 Paper Whites - forcing narcissus. More information, call Kathy (518) 828-9210

Marilyn Ryan

Fun in the Sun

The Garden Club of Kinderhook's first annual Croquet Tournament was held on Sunday, July 21, on the grounds of the Vanderpoel House in Kinderhook. Volunteers arrived at 9 a.m. to set up tents, tables and tablecloths for the snacks and drinks. Under the guidance of President Vivian Wachsberger, club members Lee Albern, Margot Allen, Sue Chiafullo, Carol Finkelstein, Kate Gulliver, Beverly Kallner, Donna Knoll, Tina Lang, Pat Leary, Eileen McHugh-Szepessy, Denola Perreten, Herminio Ramirez, Jane Rose, Marilyn Ryan, Anne Schomaker, Gerry Smith, Vicki Smith, Dana Spot and Maryann Weber worked hard to make the day a big success.



Club members cleaned out years of undergrowth at the Vanderpoel House in preparation for the tournament and made sure that the refreshments table was well stocked



In the afternoon, clad in croquet white, with mallets in hand, players took to the courts.



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, but I'll try to decipher whatever you send - and contact you if I'm stumped.

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.

Maryann

Did you figure out the identity of Betty-Jean's mystery plant? It's New York Ironweed.



For good company and stimulating programs, consider attending two big fall meetings: the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State's Fall Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Corning September 10-12 and our own District III Fall Meeting, "Colors of Autumn," October 17 at Birch Hill in Schodack.