

# The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



AUGUST 2020

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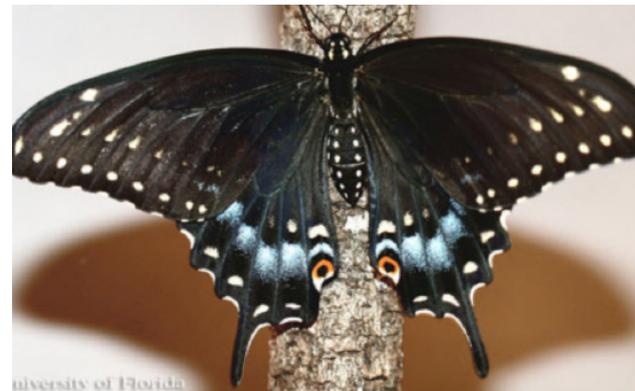
## From the Director



Greetings!

It's the day after Hurricane Isaias as I write this letter. The heavy gray clouds, high winds, and sheets of rain from yesterday have given way to clear blue skies and fluffy white clouds. Rhianna, a Carolina wren who has a nest in one of my window boxes, is trying to convince her chicks that it is time for their first flight. Not only can I hear her song and see her dance but my indoors-only cats are mesmerized, sitting at the window for hours on end waiting for the event. Both of my black swallowtail butterfly larvae (caterpillars) have disappeared

from my patch of dill and since they were in their final instar, I'm assuming that they have started their pupation—and probably their overwintering pupation at that. (I'll start looking for the pupae in a few days.) All three of these things make me think of the ongoing life that surrounds us. Many of us have known people whose lives were negatively affected by Covid-19. We continue to be worried about new infections among families and friends, about travel restrictions, about attending church, weddings, and parties, etc. Yet some of us welcomed new life during the crisis and more of us will celebrate new lives and new beginnings as we continue to move through the pandemic. For many, Covid-19 has been an opportunity to learn new technology, to spend more time in the garden, to rethink overly busy lives, to consider priorities. And that reminded me of something I said in May's edition of *The Digest*: "I have to say that as a group we are resilient, creative, caring, compassionate, and involved!"



Above: Adult female eastern black swallowtail, *Papilio polyxenes asterius* (Stoll), with wings spread. Photograph by Donald Hall, University of Florida.

Below: Full-grown larva of the eastern black swallowtail, *Papilio polyxenes asterius* (Stoll). Head is to the upper left. Photograph by Donald Hall, University of Florida.

## CLUBS IN DISTRICT III

### District Three Clubs, by County

**Albany:** Blue Creek, Guilderland, Helderview

**Columbia:** Germantown, The Garden Club of Kinderhook

**Dutchess:** Tioronda

**Greene-Schoharie:** Athens Community, Clematis, Schoharie Valley

**Rensselaer:** Greenbush

**Schenectady:** Garden Explorers, Country Garden Club of Clifton Park, Glen Oaks, H. Gilbert Harlow, Hugh Plat, Western Hills

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

(from pg. 1)

Later in this edition of *The Digest*, you'll see how other clubs in District III are getting together. You'll also find tips on having club meetings completed with a business meeting and a presentation. FGCNYS has put together a list of presentations and speakers who can join your club virtually for a meeting.

You'll also find some useful information about copyright infringement. This is important if you ever want to use something you found on the internet. Failing to follow copyright laws can potentially lead to financial penalties and/or lawsuits.

Having mentioned copyright, you'll see that the pictures included with the Director's Letter include captions that include the name of the photographer. I found those pictures on a wonderful article published by the University of Florida and contacted Professor Hall for permission to use the photographs. For an in-depth article about black swallowtail butterflies, follow the link below.

[http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/bfly/bfly2/eastern\\_black\\_swallowtail.htm#:~:text=The%20black%20swallowtail%20is%20found,\(Minno%20%26%20Emmel%201993\)](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/bfly/bfly2/eastern_black_swallowtail.htm#:~:text=The%20black%20swallowtail%20is%20found,(Minno%20%26%20Emmel%201993))

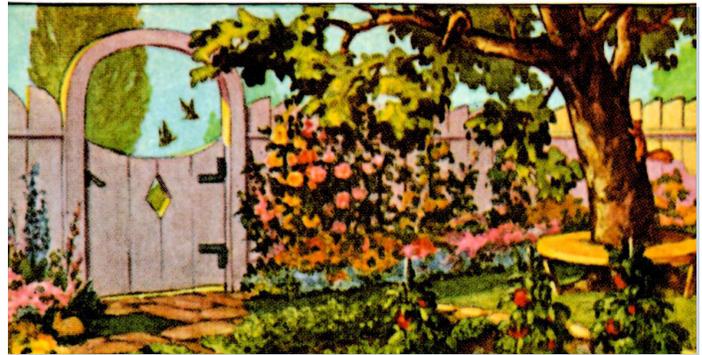
It's hard to believe but we're nearing the end of the two-year terms for our District and State officers. The District officers would normally be elected at our annual Fall Meeting. At this point, the Fall Meeting is still scheduled but whether or not to cancel it will be discussed at our August board meeting. Figuring out how to handle an in-person meeting of 50–100 people with social distancing is challenging and we have no way of knowing a meeting of that size would even be allowed under NYS PAUSE. So stay tuned for more information about that towards the end of August.

Enjoy the rest of *The Digest*, stay well, and I hope we will all be able to see each other in person soon.

Beth

Elizabeth Walker, Director, FGCNYS District III

All photos used with the permission of the photographer, Donald Hall.



## Nominations Open!

The two-year terms of our District and State officers end later this year. District III's nominating committee has been reaching out to potential candidates for the District positions. Maureen McNamara is leading District III's nominating committee. If you are interested in being on the District III Board of Directors, please get in touch with Maureen at [gardnerrdmo@yahoo.com](mailto:gardnerrdmo@yahoo.com).

FGCNYS is also looking for people willing to stand for election to various State position. If you are interested in that, please speak with your club president or get in touch with your District Director, Beth Walker, at [eawalker2@gmail.com](mailto:eawalker2@gmail.com). They have the information and forms necessary to submit a nomination.

If you aren't interested in being an officer at the District or State level, please consider saying yes if you are asked to stand for election in your club. Being actively involved in the management of your club is a rewarding and educational experience that provides satisfaction to you and strength to your club.



**Third District, Federated  
Garden Clubs of New York  
State, Inc.**

### OUR THIRD DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE

Clubs, please don't forget to like, post, and share to our Facebook page. Plus, this is a great resource for interesting gardening and environmental content.

[www.facebook.com/  
ThirdDistrictFGCNYS/](http://www.facebook.com/ThirdDistrictFGCNYS/)



## Time to Buy Wildflower Seeds for our Birds, Bees, and Butterflies

*by Jean H. Horn  
Wildflower Committee Chair*

The main wildflower seed companies are offering discounts currently on wildflower seeds. American Meadows, Vermont Wildflowers, Edenbrothers, and even Amazon and eBay sell wildflower seeds. They all carry seeds for separate areas of the country and of course, we are the Northeast.

There are combination offers of several different wildflower seeds in a package and also individual seeds. Individual seeds produce stunning swaths of color...like a whole area of brown or black-eyed susans or shasta daisy. If you take a walk along a field or road, you can spot the most common wildflower seeds that grow in your area and most likely are surrounded by bees, birds, and butterflies. When you see these blooming wildflowers producing seeds, it is best to not collect these seeds. These wildflowers have found an ideal spot to grow and it is best to let these plants reproduce yet more plants. Better to buy your own seeds.

Your perennial purchased seeds should not be planted until we have had a hard frost and temps will remain cold. You don't want the baby plants to begin growing and then are killed by the next frost. Freezing winter temps cause the hard seed shells to crack open (called cold stratification) to prepare for spring growing.

Perennial (reproduce many years) and Annual (last only one year) Wildflower Planting Directions:

1. Remove existing plant growth from your chosen area.  
This may be best, but can be difficult in some areas...and I don't do it.

2. Scatter the seeds. Helpful to do this just before a snowfall of a few inches. Then rake the seeds in or just walk over the seeds. Wildflower seeds should never be planted under the soil like a vegetable. Winter snows will push the seeds into the soil just enough.

3. Wildflower seeds are notoriously under-producing, so don't expect your wildflowers to pop up next year as though you had planted domestic flowers. They may even take more than one year to grow and bloom. If you produce just a few growing wildflower plants, they will go to seed and produce more wildflowers.

Bees, birds, and butterflies will thank you!



Photo courtesy of Jean Horn.

# Meeting During Covid-19

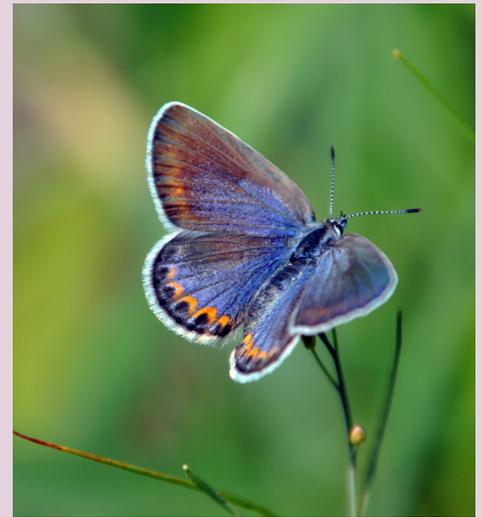
*Beth Walker, Director, District III*

As many of our clubs struggle with how to stay in touch during this period and how to continue the important work of our clubs, it has been wonderful to hear of clubs that have continued to meet for both business meetings and programs. Granted these meetings have been virtual but.... You still get that social vibe during an open mic period. All that is missing is the food.

FGCNYS has prepared a list of presenters who are willing to join your club's meeting to do a presentation. Topics available include the Victorian Language of Flowers, Garden Photo Tips, Low Profile Designs, Native Pollinators, The Karner Blue Butterfly, Putting your Garden to Bed, and many more. Most of them are free.

Club presidents have received the list of topics available as well as the instructions for working with the FGCNYS office to set up Zoom meetings. (You can also use Google or Facebook platforms to meet.)

This is a great way to meet during this period. Please talk this over amongst yourselves and give it a try. You'll have a fun time and maybe learn something new. Just remember to supply your own cookies or cupcakes!



*The Karner Blue Butterfly, photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*

## Be Aware of Contracts

*Beth Walker, Director, District III*

As you may know, the FGCNYS has canceled the Conference & Symposium scheduled for the fall of 2020. The original intent had been to simply move the event to the fall of 2021. However, when the new contract was received from the hotel, there were new clauses that the state organization felt were unacceptable so the Fall 2021 Conference & Symposium has been canceled for the time being. That may change as the situation changes.

I am including a portion of an email that was sent by Vikki Bellias, our State Director, that provides more information and recommendations.

"I am enclosing the minutes from the May 20th and the June 18th meeting. Unfortunately, the letter that we distributed from Ms. Driscoll at the Delta Hotel was not an accurate representation of the contract addendum that we received after voting to hold the meeting in October 2021. The contract contained clauses that we could



not agree to and we had to decline to accept the new terms. It had a no cancellation under any circumstances clause and we would incur the full expenses in the contract for all meals and rooms if we canceled. Therefore, we are indefinitely postponing the 2021 Fall Conference and Symposium until further notice. If the situation changes and we feel that it is safe for our membership and economically feasible, we could consider other possibilities.

In addition, I would strongly counsel our District Directors and board members who are considering making arrangements for a future district or club meeting/luncheon to carefully examine any contracts that may be proposed. We are not sure what the future will hold as far as closures and our organization or your club cannot afford to bear heavy penalties for cancellations beyond our control. We understand that businesses are anxious to lock in customers but we do have to be careful what we agree to."

# SEEDS FROM CHINA

Beth Walker, Director, District III

Here's the link to get the latest information from the USDA's website about the unsolicited seeds that are showing up in mailboxes.

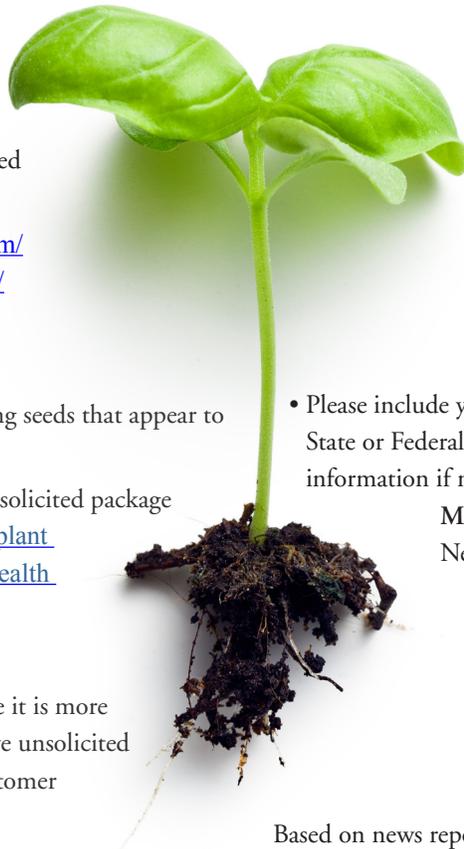
[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa\\_by\\_date/sa-2020/sa-07/seeds-china](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa_by_date/sa-2020/sa-07/seeds-china)

To summarize:

- The USDA is aware that people are receiving seeds that appear to be coming from China.
- They are urging who anyone receives an unsolicited package of seeds to immediately contact their [state plant regulatory official](#) or [APHIS State plant health director](#).
- Do not plant seeds from unknown origins.
- There is no evidence at this time to indicate it is more than a “brushing scam” where people receive unsolicited items from a seller who then posts false customer reviews to boost sales.
- USDA is currently collecting seed packages from recipients and will test their contents and determine if they contain anything that could be of concern to U.S. agriculture or the environment.

## Update: August 3, 2020: Unsolicited Seed Package Shipping Destinations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) urges anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds to mail those seeds to the location listed below for your state.



## Instructions for Mailing Seed Packets:

- Place the unopened seed packet and any packaging, including the mailing label in a mailing envelope. If the seed packets are open, first place the seeds and their packaging into a zip-lock bag, seal it and then place everything into a mailing envelope.
- Please include your name, address, and phone number so that a State or Federal agriculture official can contact you for additional information if needed.

## MAIL TO:

New York USDA APHIS PPQ  
 JFK Plant Inspection Station  
 Attn: Supervisor Erich Glasgow  
 230-59 Rockaway Boulevard  
 Building C, Suite 100, Room 109  
 Springfield Gardens, NY 11413

Based on news reports, it seems that while none of the seeds that have been identified thus far have been particularly dangerous. There is always a risk that something might be invasive or carry disease or even harmful insects. If you receive some of these seeds and decide not to mail them to the USDA, please burn them rather than putting them in the trash.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has stated that the mailing labels are “fake one with erroneous layouts and entries.” China Post has contacted the USPS and plans to investigate the fake packages.



Samples of seed packages showing up in mailboxes.

Left: Photo courtesy of Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Right: Photo courtesy of Alabama Department of Agriculture.

## CLEMATIS GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTY

by Jean Horn

Clematis Garden Club member Norah Masterson's beautiful garden at 468 Kesley Hill Rd., Middleburgh was chosen as August's 'Garden of the Month'. Norah and her husband moved from Ireland and learned by trial and error that flowers that grew well in Auntie Bridgie's Irish garden did not do well in Middleburgh's cold winters. This lovely garden of perennials, vegetables, fruit trees, and herbs show that Norah was a fast learner. Clematis Garden Club consists of 40 members from Greene, Albany, and Schoharie Counties and welcomes new members. for info, call Jean Horn at 518-966-4260.



Above and left: Norah Masterson's gardens are featured as the club's August Garden of the Month. The club features a different garden every month. Photo courtesy of Jean Horn.

## GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Cynthia Teator

### Biggest Dahlia Ever!

The biggest dahlia ever is found in a country garden by a babbling brook!

It's about four inches across, brightly colored, yellow petaled bushy garden flower. A member of the Asteraceae family of dicotyledonous plants. It's an "herbaceous perennial plant of the Mexican genus Dahlia" according to *Collins Dictionary*. Also known for showy flowers and tuberous roots the dahlia is a popular worldwide flower found in 42 different colored bright petals!



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Teator..

# GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

A musing... It has been five or so months since we here in New York, and specifically the Hudson Valley, have been 'locked down' to some extent or another. The difficult part for me is not seeing and interacting with my garden club members and by extension all of you out there in your clubs. I also have had the sad duty to cancel Germantown Garden Club meetings, events, and programs.

We held our first meeting for 2020 in February and welcomed two new members. As it became clear that the March meeting would not be able to take place, the realization also became clear that April's meeting would not happen. During this time, I thought that New Yorkers would be able to tackle this virus and after some time we just might be able to have some meetings. New York was at its peak but the bulk of the country seemed not to be as badly affected at that time.

As you know the Germantown Garden Club has had some form of flower show since it was formed in 1928. My wishful thinking was perhaps a full standard show would not be possible, but a Horticulture Specialty Show might be. With this in mind, we thought we could hold this part of our show in the garage on the grounds of the Germantown Historic site at the 1746 Palatine Parsonage. However, we have decided to turn this into a 'virtual flower show' similar to the one the District held in the Spring. Being able to have a show at this particular time enables us to work through the news and gives us a sense of control that members sincerely welcome. It is scheduled for September 20 and results will be posted on our Facebook page.

Our field trip to a sustainable farm, The Churchtown Dairy in Hudson, scheduled for June was a possibility and with a consultation with the people there it went on. Seven of us attended. We were able to tour only the gardens. Keeping with the distancing and mask guidelines, it was worth going to and we recommend this as a field trip for any club. We were able to continue to create arrangements for the Germantown CSD high school graduation, such as it was, and which we have done for many years. In July, our region in New York was entering into a phase that allowed members who chose to attend our annual luncheon outdoors at a local restaurant. With social distancing of course.

With a great deal of our country now experiencing what New York did in the spring, we unfortunately, as of now have no further plans to have any meetings. It is a wait and see situation. One month at a time. I know that all of you are experiencing this same dilemma.

Hopefully, we can all once again, in the not too distant future, enjoy the wonderful fellowship of fellow gardeners!

## Germantown Garden Club Awards Annual Scholarship

This year the Germantown Garden Club was proud to award a \$500 scholarship to Mi-Hye Platt. Mi-Hye, a senior at Germantown High School, will be attending a gap-year program to serve in developing countries and receive leadership training before going to college. She is the daughter of Jina and Roland Platt.

Mi-Hye's excellence in high school and her future endeavors make the Germantown Garden Club proud to award her this scholarship. Her high school activities include membership in the National Honor Society and her tenure as the International Club's Vice President. She has also participated in the Spanish Club, the Journalism Club's publication of *The Stylus*, the Art Club, and the Soccer team. Her major will be Environmental Science where she hopes to practice as an Environmental Lawyer.

Each year, the Germantown Garden Club awards a scholarship to a graduating Germantown High School senior who intends to pursue college studies related to horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, botany, biology, plant pathology, forestry, agronomy, environmental concerns, city planning, land management, and/or allied subjects. Funding for scholarships is derived from many sources, including the club's Annual Plant Sale and the Holiday Open House.



*Floral decorations for the Germantown High School Graduation provided by the club. Photo courtesy of Elke Crane.*

## GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Michele Santoli

Well, the garden club members here in Guilderland were put into a tailspin like everyone else because of COVID-19! None of us realized how this would impact us or that we would be facing a world pandemic for so long. However, despite of that, we all joined together—masked and socially distanced—and still made plans that would be put into action. What a group!

Our April, May, and June meetings were canceled but a core of members tended to the gardens in full force. Weeding, thinning, planting, and designing happened during those months on Wednesdays when the weather cooperated. If you passed by both historical houses that we tend, you would have noticed masked people milling around on the property. Thank you Chris “Birdie” Burdick, our fearless leader in the garden. Our gardens never looked so good!

Then in July, we lived on the edge. A meeting was planned at a member’s home in her lush and expansive garden. A canvas covering was erected, umbrellas were opened, chairs were spaced, and a small sound system was used. A lively meeting of about 25 members was held with discussions about our 2020 events. It was soon realized that things would be quite different. More meetings were canceled. Our Open House in December and all the preparations for it were not going to happen. This, of course, was disappointing since this has always been our biggest fundraiser. So, an August meeting was suggested to discuss alternatives. The town gave the OK to conduct it on the grounds of the Mynderse-Frederick House. When the meeting was adjourned, a presentation was given. Many giggles were heard as “Herbs in the Garden and Superstitions Surrounding Them” was shared. Oatmeal cookies and strawberry and rhubarb squares were freshly baked and enjoyed by all.

It has to be said that 2020 will live in our memories for years to come. Of course, Covid-19 will loom large there. However, it should also be remembered for all the time spent with each other and the enjoyable moments we spent getting to know each other. With every cloud comes a silver lining.

Wear those masks and stay safe!

*Above: Sandy Mason, Maureen McNamara, Barbara Turner, Sandy Hill and Nancy Parry “working” in the gardens.*

*Center: A quiet spot.*

*Below: Merril-Lee Lenegar and Chris Burdick spreading mulch to finish the flower beds.*

*Photos courtesy of The Guilderland Garden Club.*



## THE GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Susan Sweet, President; and Cynthia Bogardus

Sadly, our Club has been on “pause” to some extent since mid-March due to the global pandemic. We were forced to cancel our Spring Luncheon and Installation of New Officers and Board Members that was scheduled for April. However, our new yearbooks were mailed out along with new membership cards. The yearbook included current contact information, enabling us to stay connected with each other.

Our Flower Show that was scheduled for May was also canceled, but we are very hopeful that we will have the show in 2021. All the planning has been done and we are anticipating a fabulous show next year. One of the members of the board was able to put together a great collage of spring garden pictures that our members sent in and were shared.

The Club took on a new project at the request of Kinderhook Mayor James Dunham. Members of the Club purchased and planted flowers at the Persons of Color Cemetery located on Rothermel Avenue. Seven newly installed flower boxes were filled with small shrubs, geraniums, and vinca vines by Geraldine Smith, Betsy Seeley, and Susan Sweet. The land on which this burial ground was established was willed for the purpose by John Rogers, a native of Ireland who came to Kinderhook circa 1795. The site has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since March 22, 2016.

Our traditional “Board Member Thank You” luncheon honoring our outgoing President, Denise Hess, was also canceled due to the pandemic. A few weeks ago, the 2019-2020 Board was able to meet for a “social distanced” supper to honor Denise for her many wonderful contributions to our club for the past two years. We had planned to eat outdoors, but just as everyone arrived, so did a terrible storm! We were forced to dine by candlelight due to a power outage. Despite the weather, it was wonderful to see everyone and nice to finally be able to honor Denise.

Sadly, in June the 2020-2021 board members met and voted unanimously to cancel all scheduled speakers and tours through November. We are very hopeful that these events will be rescheduled for next year. We also decided to meet again in November to decide what programs, if any, we will be able to have for the remainder of the year.

In June, one of our members moved to Montana! We knew we could not meet in person to say farewell, but we decided to have a “drive-by” parade. The event was organized by Sandi Van Alstyne, who strategically stationed Kendra Kalsher where she would see the outpouring of fondness and goodwill from participating members. Approximately a dozen members gathered and participated in the drive-by with signs, flowers, flashing lights, and honking horns. Even though we were in our cars it was nice to see everyone—even with masks!



*Above: Practicing safety protocols, the group saw the chance for a photo op with President Martin Van Buren. The hard working ladies are Stephanie Lally, Kendra Kalsher, and Sandi Van Alstyne. Below: Members Geraldine Smith, Betsy Seeley, and Susan Sweet at the Persons of Color Cemetery. Photos courtesy of The Garden Club of Kinderhook.*

Despite being unable to hold monthly meetings due to the public health crisis, the Garden Club of Kinderhook has remained engaged in outdoor community beautification projects. They cleaned, weeded, and planted at the Betty Fisher memorial garden in the Kinderhook Village Square. Our members have also continued to maintain the Martin Van Buren gravesite. In July, some of our members volunteered to sew PPE gowns for our local rescue squad.

We have an Installation of New Officers and Board Members meeting planned for August 11. Denise Hess has graciously volunteered to host this and officially install our new officers. We are all looking forward to this “socially distanced” and masked event!

Despite being physically apart, our membership has been able to stay connected through emails, phone calls, and our Facebook page. We are all hopeful that someday in the not too distant future, we will once again, meet together in person. In the meantime, we are all trying very hard to stay safe and healthy!

## TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack

The Tioronda Garden Club has not met as a group since their first meeting in March. However, the Club has continued to work on the same projects of maintaining and beautifying our community. Members again sponsored the 55 flower baskets and 15 large potted plants along Beacon's business district. Maintaining the many public gardens, including restoration of the steel beam fragment from the World Trade Tower at the Patriots Garden, has continued unabated despite the difficulties of meeting in a large group.

After much discussion, it appeared that the club's major fundraiser, the Autumn Wine Festival would not be feasible with the current restrictions on large gatherings.

In its place, President Carol Demicco is planning an Autumn Mum Plant Sale as an alternative fund-raising event. Orders for mums will be secured and paid for in advance. On September 19, plants will be ready for pick-up from 10 am to noon outside the historic Madam Brett Homestead. A similar type of sale of fresh holiday wreaths decorated by club members is planned for early December.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 9. The program will feature author and DAR President General Denise VanBuren. She will discuss historic gardens in Beacon and give a sneak preview of her latest book which is scheduled for publication in early October.



*Above left: Former club president Gary Barrack applied a fresh coat of paint to the iron railing surrounding the club sponsored planter at the First Responders Clock Tower.*

*Above center: Club members donated and planted flowers in front of Beacon High School in honor of the graduating class of 2020. The planter was used as a focal point for photographs of each graduate in a videotaped graduation ceremony.*

*Above right: Despite the downturn of commuter traffic at the Beacon Train Station, club member Nicole Vodrazka works to continue the tradition of greeting travelers with an abundance of colorful flowers.*

*Right: Club members take a break for a photo-op while working to clean, trim, and mulch the Beacon Patriots Garden in time for the Memorial Day celebration.*



## NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

*Margaret Mc Dowell, President*

As is the case with many groups, our Spring Meetings were canceled due to the coronavirus.

We had an in-person member organizational meeting on 6/29/20 to plan our Fall programs as best we can. Our monthly Board meetings have been held through Zoom. We are planning our annual visit in September to the beautiful Mohonk Gardens.

October and November we will have speakers rescheduled from our canceled Spring Programs. We hope to make one meeting a hands-on craft meeting and in December (if possible) we will have a Holiday event.

All meetings and programs depend on how our area progresses through the pandemic. We have asked members to share photos of their gardens on our web page. We are hoping next year to host a 75th Anniversary celebration open to our community and other local Garden Clubs. For 2021 we all hope our programming will be regularly scheduled.

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## SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

*by Agnes Rapoli*

Schoharie Valley Garden Club has not met since March and, since then, we have decided to postpone all activities until next March 2021 since the covid situation is uncertain. We have informed HQ about our decision so we really have nothing to report. There will be no fall yard sale or Christmas luncheon this year.

Some of our members are from other clubs; and we are counting on spreading this via the grapevine and word of mouth.

Best Wishes to you all and let's hope we are all back to full speed in the new year,



## Plant America

Inspiring Gardens Across the Americas

The theme for National Garden Clubs' President Gay Austin's administration is Plant America, a singularly focused initiative on gardens and gardening. Both a call to service and a description of what NGC clubs do, Plant America supports the main reason that people say they join a garden club - to learn about gardening!

Covering any and every aspect of gardening, horticulture, garden design, and community service, it applies to every kind of garden: Blue Star plantings, vegetable gardens, community

gardens, container gardening, neighborhood plantings, urban farms, low-water xeriscape gardens, and more.

Projects in local communities are what distinguish us from the work of other gardening organizations. Towns, cities, neighborhoods, and roadsides across the United States are all beneficiaries of National Garden Clubs projects.

### GRANT GUIDELINES FOR 2020

Through Plant America Grants, up to \$1,000 is made available to be used for direct expenses of projects. Projects submitted for receiving a grant may be a joint venture with another organization/s. The scope of these projects in communities may include:

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Community gardens
- School gardens/classrooms
- Landscaping for Habitat for Humanity Homes
- Landscaping of Blue Star Memorial Markers
- Implementation of environmental practices
- A horticulture or environmental educational event for the public

You can find out more info about the grants by going to this link on the NGC website here: [www.gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants](http://www.gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants)

The deadline for the grant is October 15, 2020.



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay.

## Copyright Infringement

*Beth Walker, Director, District III*

This information was presented to FGCNYS District 9 and later to the FGCNYS Board of Directors by Roxane Wasserman, a member of FGCNYS. It is authorized for distribution to the clubs in New York.

### What is a copyright and what can be copyrighted?

A copyright protects an author's original work. It may be a photograph, piece of art, movie, play, novel, film, music, software code, etc. It is different than a patent that protects an invention or a trademark that protects a slogan or symbol that identifies a brand/company.

### How does something become copyrighted?

An author's original work is considered to be copyrighted automatically at the time it is created unless the author specifically states that it is in the public domain. Note that to be copyrighted, it does not require a copyright registration and it does not need a '©' on the piece of work.

### How would a Garden Club expose itself to using a copyrighted work?

- By showing a movie or television show at an event from a member's copy of a movie or Netflix account. These are considered to be for personal use only, not a business. A nonprofit organization is considered a "business" for licensing purposes.
- By using a photograph from the internet on your website.
- By playing music at an event from a member's CD or streaming music from a personal account. Once again, the CD and account are considered to be for personal use only, not a business.

### Is it ever okay to use copyrighted material?

I caution against using copyrighted material. However, "fair use" is a right to use copyrighted material under certain circumstances without the consent of the copyright owner. These circumstances could be educational, commentary, or criticism. Caution should be exercised since you would need to prove that you were using the material in such a manner if you are ever accused of copyright infringement.

### What happens when you do use copyrighted material?

A "cease and desist" letter is sent by a copyright owner threatening a civil lawsuit if the recipient continues using the protected work.

Potential lawsuit if no efforts are made to remove or discontinue using the copyrighted material.

*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 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](mailto:kjanson@aol.com).

To access *The Digest*, go to the State website—[fgcnys.com](http://fgcnys.com)—select District III on the home page and then select *Digest Online*.



## NEWS FLASH

*Beth Walker, Director, District III*

Two members of the Garden Explorers garden club of Niskayuna have their gardens included in an article in *The Daily Gazette*. Follow the link below to see the wonderful gardens of Kathy Wood and Ann Singer.

<https://dailygazette.com/article/2020/07/26/niskayuna-scotia-yards-offer-glimpses-at-different-tastes-techniques>