

The Diggest



THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.

FEBRUARY 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

Mazes and Labyrinths	2
Solve the Maze	3
District III Spring Conference	4
FGCNYS Conference and Symposium	5
Clubs' Calendar	6
So What Have You Been Doing?	6
Registration Form	7

From the Board

Greetings from your Second Assistant Director



Winter is well upon us and I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. I am spending a few weeks in the South, out of the colder weather. I must say it is nice not to have to deal with the ice and snow but the temperatures here have been cooler than I expected. The vegetation is very different from our own gardens but there are flowering hibiscus and oleander to enjoy. I am looking forward to spring. Yearning for longer days and seeing my crocus and snow drops pop up, letting me know that spring is indeed coming.

The Executive Board has agreed to move forward with our Spring District meeting entitled "It's Bloomin' Time". The meeting will be held on April 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Avenue Extension in Albany. Our speaker is Michele Peters of Ambiance Florals and Events. Michele has over 30 years of experience as a floral artist and designer and promises to create some exciting arrangements for us. We will also have four vendors and our Ways & Means table, along with Raffles to entice you. The Polish Community Center has installed a new state of the art air purification system for virus free air and surfaces to provide a safe meeting environment. They are following strict CDC Covid-19 guidelines. Currently they require proof of vaccination and masks for all individuals entering their facility. We will be required to follow whatever CDC guidelines are in affect at the time of our meeting. I hope providing a safe meeting environment will encourage all members to attend. Our last District meeting was 2½ years ago. This will be a great opportunity to get together and reacquaint ourselves or meet new members after such a long hiatus. All the details for the meeting, as well as a registration form, are included in this issue on pages 4 and 7. I am looking for some educational displays for our meeting. If your club has participated in a project or program that you would like to share, please consider bringing an education display on it to our spring meeting. If you're interested, please contact me at kris.vgt@gmail.com. Future plans for our Fall District III meeting will be discussed during our business meeting on April 21.

This year, District III is hosting the FGCNYS State Conference and Symposium. Both will be held at the Grand Hotel in Poughkeepsie. The State Conference is scheduled for June 12-14, 2022. A tour of local historical mansions and dinner at Shadows on the Hudson is planned for Sunday afternoon/evening. The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday morning, followed by lunch and a design presentation by Theresa Colucci, AIFD. NGC President Mary Warshauer will be joining us! The Keynote speaker for Monday evening is Marta McDowel, author of Unearthing the Secret Garden. Tuesday morning will be a presentation on a local garden with tentative plans to visit the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) including lunch. The Symposium is entitled "Hostality—a FGCNYS, Inc. Symposium" and is scheduled for June 15-16, immediately following the State Conference. The floral focus of the symposium is titled "Featured Plant and Multi-Rhythmic Design Types" with Allied Topics: Mechanics 7 Tools & Fantasy Forms. The horticultural focus of the symposium is on hostas and cut ferns. It is not often that the State Convention and Symposium is in our District. I encourage all members to attend, even if only for a day. For the judges of our District, this is an excellent opportunity to get Symposium credits.

(continued on page 3)

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: The 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

Mazes and Labyrinths

*by Cindy Teator
First Assistant Director, District III*

Recently I attended a zoom presentation titled "Lunch in the Garden " with David Chinery of Rensselaer County Cooperative Extension. He explained about mazes and labyrinths and referenced the book *Magical Paths* by Jeff Saward.

Mazes and labyrinths are similar to each other and slightly different. Mazes can be formed in gardens using usually branches or walls for instance. Labyrinths are formed by stones usually with a more historical sense of spiritual religious meaning.

Did you ever think about adding a maze or a labyrinth to your garden? Many mazes are located throughout gardens in the USA and their popularity has risen since the 1990's. A maze can be constructed using many different materials and it can be very simple or very extravagant! Some examples of materials might be: cypress, yew, holly, beeches, hornbeans, cornstalks, or canna .

One famous maze is located at Hampton Court, England. Another large brick one is here in Arkville, NY owned by Armand Erpmf.

Many labyrinths are located in Europe. One famous labyrinth is called, "Tombe del Labyrinth." It was created about 900 BC to 500 AD and it could be 1000's of years old! The number of circles in the labyrinth has a significant religious meaning. Some have seven. They are in church squares and civilizations from pagan to Christian times. The popularity of labyrinths spread through the use of Cretan coins which were used for money and had a labyrinth on the face of the coins.

Some labyrinths were woven into baskets. There's also water and stone labyrinths. Mosaics are also forms of labyrinths. They can be very beautiful and colorful decorations in the garden!

We thought that garden club members would like us to include a puzzle with each issue so we have included one in this issue to do. Enjoy the puzzle and think about our upcoming Spring meeting in April!



A maze



A labyrinth

(from pg. 1)

There are several learning opportunities available in the next few months:

On March 7–10: the National Garden Club will be hosting Environmental School Course 3—Air and Related Issues via Zoom. Details can be found on the NGC website gardenclub.org. Under the Schools heading, select Environmental School and then click on Course 3. There is a brochure available with details for the course. The registration deadline to sign up is March 1.

On April 26–29 District VIII is hosting Environmental School Course 4—Water and Related Issues via Zoom. Please contact Nancy Kaliera at 716-826-7462 to register.

There are two upcoming Gardening School classes available via Zoom. Course 3 is being offered on August 22–23 by Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri.

Contact Nan McCabe at 636-293-0647 to register. Course 4 is being offered on April 7–9. Contact Linda Jean Smith at 978-356-3101 to register.

Lastly, there is a Landscaping School Course 3 being offered via Zoom on March 22–23. Contact Susan Kelley at 203-715-9118 to register.

It is hard to believe that we are still dealing with Covid-19 after 2 years. I am so looking forward to seeing everyone at our Spring meeting. Please consider attending. We can gather safely as long as we follow the CDC guidelines. Stay safe and warm and Think Spring!

Regards,

Kris Vogt

Second Assistant Director, FGCNYS District III

//////////////////// **SOLVE THE MAZE** //////////////////////





SPRING DISTRICT MEETING:

It's Bloomin' Time

Cynthia Teator, First Assistant Director, and Kris Vogt, Second Assistant Director, Third District,
Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.

Warmly invite you to the Spring District Meeting

April 21, 2022

Polonaise at the Polish Community Center,

225 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, NY 12205 | 518-456-3995

REGISTRATION: 9:30–11:30 a.m.

**VENDORS, EXHIBITS, COFFEE, TEA, AND
WATER STATION:** Throughout the day

WAYS AND MEANS AND RAFFLE TABLES:
9:30 a.m.–Noon

BUSINESS MEETING: 10–11:30 a.m.

LUNCHEON: Noon
\$40 (prepaid by April 4)

Menu: Poached Salmon with sauce or Chicken Marsala, both served with rice pilaf and Bermuda blend vegetables; or Pasta Primavera with Alfredo sauce. All lunches include tossed salad, rolls and butter, cheesecake, coffee, tea and water.

RAFFLE DRAWING: 12:45 P.M.

RESERVATIONS: due April. Send names of attendees and menu choice with one check per club to **Cindy Teator, Registrar;**
PO Box 290, Kinderhook, NY 12106.
cteator3@gmail.com or 518-694-1930. Make checks payable to Third District, FGCNYS, Inc.

A FUN THING TO DO: Welcome Spring! Decorate a hat or fascinator with spring flowers and wear it to the luncheon. Live or faux flowers are acceptable.

DIRECTIONS: Thruway to Exit 24 (I-90 East) or Northway to Exit 1E (I-90 East). Take Exit 2 off I-90 East to Washington Avenue. Turn right onto Washington Avenue. Turn right onto Rapp Road, then take immediate left into the Polish Community Center parking lot.

PROGRAM: IT'S ABOUT BLOOMIN' TIME
Michele Peters, owner/designer of Ambiance Floral and Events located in Albany, NY, has over thirty years' experience as a floral artist and designer with styles that range from romantic and classic to modern and abstract. Her energy, passion and creativity reflect in every design, wedding or event. In 2016 she was inducted into the American Institute of Floral Designers and is a certified floral designer in this elite organization. She has been the chair of the floral design committee for the Capital District Garden and Flower Show for many years, as well as the former chair of NY in Bloom. In 2019 and 2020 she co-chaired the committee for the Cathedral in Bloom show at All Saints Cathedral.

Save the Dates!

Hudson Valley FGCNYS Annual Convention

June 13 & 14, 2022

Grand Hotel, Poughkeepsie, NY

The conference will start with a tour of local (to Poughkeepsie) historical mansions and a dinner at Shadows on the Hudson. The Annual Meeting (open to all) will be held on Monday, June 13, and we will be joined by the President of National Garden Clubs, Mary Warshauer. Lunch on Monday will be followed by a design presentation by Theresa Colucci, AIFD. The keynote speaker that night will be Marta McDowell, author of *Unearthing the Secret Garden*. Tuesday will include a presentation about a local garden and we are working on a trip to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) for lunch.

Hostatality—a FGCNYS, Inc. Symposium

June 15 & 16, 2022

Grand Hotel, Poughkeepsie, NY

All are invited to join the Symposium. For the judges amongst us, this is a good time to get Symposium credits!

The floral focus is titled “Featured Plant and Multi-Rhythmic Design Types” with Allied Topics: Mechanics 7 Tools & Fantasy Forms. The horticultural focus is on hostas and cut ferns.

Additional information on both events will be provided soon.

Clubs' Calendar 2022

March 25–27, 2022

Capital District Garden and Flower Show
Hudson Valley Community College, Rt. 4, Troy, NY

April 21, 2022

Third District Spring Meeting
“It’s Bloomin’ Time”
Polish Community Center
225 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, NY

May 14, 2022

Germantown Garden Club Plant Sale
8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Palatine Park, Palatine Park Rd., Germantown, NY

May 17–20, 2022

NGC Convention
Rosen Plaza Hotel
97 International Dr., Orlando, FL

June 12–16, 2022

FGCNYS Convention and Symposium
Grand Hotel
40 Civic Center, Poughkeepsie, NY

November 14, 2022

CAR Conference
Seven Springs Mountain Resort
777 Water Wheel Drive, Champion, PA

So What Have You Been Doing?

*by Merril-Lee Lenegar
Publicity Chair*

Although our clubs have not been able to hold Fall or Spring District Meetings since the last one in October 2019 at the Best Western in Kingston because of COVID 19, I know from what I have read in past issues of the Digest that some of our clubs did have events in and for their community. Our Executive Board has agreed that we should plan for a Spring Meeting this year. Although COVID did limit greatly what we could do, I know clubs are interested in what has been done. To share your accomplishments, I ask that you send me a copy, or the original, of the information you used to publicize your event or activity going back to October 2019. As was done at previous District meetings, your information will be compiled in a notebook and be available at the April 21, 2022 Meeting for club members to review. Club members love to see what others are doing or have done. Many clubs have been inspired after seeing what someone else has done.

So if you have information to share, please send it to me by March 31. You can include newspaper articles, flyers used to publicize your event or other notices that you used. I look forward to hearing from you so please send your information to me:

Merril-Lee Lenegar
9 Cornell Avenue
Albany, NY 12203

If you have questions, contact me at merlenegar@gmail.com

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. Please note that the February issue does not include Club News.

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.



