

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



FEBRUARY 2025

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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

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



From the Director



Greetings to all as we begin the start of our 2025 Garden Club Year.

This issue of the February Digest is dedicated mainly to the announcement of our annual Spring District Meeting. The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at Anthony's Banquet Hall, centrally located just off the NYS Thruway exit 21 at 746 County Route 23B in Leeds, NY. Our meeting theme is "Color It Spring" and will feature local vendors, raffle baskets, and a chance to win some cash with a 50/50 raffle drawing. Our program speaker is Chris Ferrero who will present "Vase-Worthy Gardening."

Assistant Director Maureen McNamara and Assistant Director Elect Linda Levitt have been working tirelessly to put this event together, while keeping costs at a minimum to encourage as many members as possible to attend our District meeting. The meeting agenda flyer and registration form can be found on pages 2 and 4. Our goal is to have participation of members from all 14 clubs in the Third District. The District Board of Directors is grateful for your continued support.

On June 1–3, FGCNYS will hold its Annual State Convention at the Desmond Crown Plaza Hotel in Albany, NY. This will be a unique opportunity for District III members to attend all or a portion of the convention at a venue close to home. There will be a special Presidents' Breakfast Forum on June 3, specifically designed for club Presidents. It will include the unveiling of the newly created Presidents' Guide, a comprehensive resource tailored to assist you in your leadership journey. Later that day, our own Elizabeth (Beth) Walker from the Saugerties Society of Little Gardens will be sworn in as President of FGCNYS for the 2025–2027 term of office. This is an extraordinary honor for our District. A reception for Beth will take place following her installation. All Third District club members are invited and encouraged to attend all or part of the convention as we welcome our new State President Beth Walker. Please mark your calendars for this informative and memorable event. More information will follow as the date approaches.

Congratulations and a warm welcome to our newly elected District III Executive Board members for the 2025–2027 term of office:

Gary Barrack, Director, Tioronda Garden Club

Linda Levitt, 1st Assistant Director, Germantown Garden Club

Terry Buel, Recording Secretary, Clematis Garden Club

Carol Demicco, Corresponding Secretary, Marlborough Garden Club

Marie Celeste, Treasurer, Greenbush Garden Club

Kim Gurney, Assistant Treasurer, Guilderland Garden Club

FGCNYS 1st Vice President Beth Walker will conduct the installation ceremony at our Spring meeting before we break for lunch. I am looking forward to seeing you again as we begin our new garden club year.

With gratitude and warm regards,
Gary Barrack, District Director



SPRING DISTRICT MEETING:

Color It Spring

Gary Barrack, Director

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

Cordially invites you to the Spring District Meeting

April 10, 2025

Anthony's Banquet Hall

746 Route 23B, Leeds, NY | 518-943-9765

REGISTRATION: 9–11:30 a.m.

BREAKFAST BAR: Upon arrival.
Assorted pastries, coffee, & tea

VENDORS, EXHIBITS, BEVERAGES:
Throughout the day

FUNDRAISING & RAFFLE TABLES:
9 a.m.–Noon

**BUSINESS MEETING &
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:**
10–11 a.m.

BUFFET LUNCHEON: 11:45 a.m.
Menu: Salad Bar, Chicken Francaise,
Stuffed Sole (with Shrimp & Crab),
Penne with Vodka Sauce, Roasted
Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables. Dessert
& Coffee served table-side.

RAFFLE DRAWING: 12:45 P.M.

RESERVATIONS: \$38, PREPAID &
RECEIVED BY MARCH 28, 2025.
Please allow sufficient time for mail
delivery! Complete Registration
Form.

DIRECTIONS: Take NYS Thruway North or
South Bound. Get off at Exit 21, Catskill.
Take a right at the traffic light and you will
see Anthony's Banquet Hall on your right.

PROGRAM: 1–2 a.m.

VASE-WORTHY GARDENING

Presenter: **Chris Ferrero**, Master
Gardener, faculty member of Berkshire
Botanical Garden

Why buy flowers at the Farmers market?
Even with minimal space, you can grow
your own! Topics to be covered include:

- Favorite plants of "flower farmers" who make the most beautiful bouquets.
- Roles perennials, annuals, and woodies play in a cutting garden.
- Choices between separate beds or incorporating into existing gardens or using containers.
- The importance of bloom sequence - especially early and late bloomers.
- Tips for cutting, arranging and preserving.

Clubs' Calendar 2025

March 28–30

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

April 10

Third District Spring Meeting
“Color It Spring”
Anthony’s Banquet Hall
Route 23B, Leeds, NY

May 17

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

June 1–3

FGCNYS Convention
Crowne Plaza Desmond Hotel
660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY

May 18–22

NGC Convention
Embassy Suites
337 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC

October 16

District III Fall Meeting
Pegasus Restaurant
10885 State Route 9W, Coxsackie, NY



GUIDELINES FOR DISTRICT MEETING RAFFLES

Each club attending a District meeting is asked to bring a raffle prize, with a minimum value of \$30 containing new items that should be wrapped nicely in a bag or basket. The raffle table schedule for Spring 2025 is the Rensselaer County and Ulster County Garden Clubs according to the schedule prepared by Merrill-Lee Lenegar. So volunteers from these clubs are responsible for ticket sales, the set-up of raffles, etc. Bags and raffle tickets will be provided. For additional information, please contact Raffle Chair Merrill-Lee Lenegar: email merlenegar@gmail.com or by phone at 518-456-2076,

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.



