

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



MAY 2016

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Editor's Note

A whole year has passed since I took over this newsletter. Time flies! I hope that you find the articles interesting and are inspired by how much our clubs do in this district to promote garden clubs. It is inspiring to me.

I have been busy putting together an educational exhibit for our local library about pollinators. Did you know that \$40 billion worth of crops need to be pollinated in the US each year? Worldwide, roughly 1,000 plants grown for food, beverages, fibers, spices, and medicines need to be pollinated by animals in order to produce the goods on which we depend.

Foods and beverages produced with the help of pollinators include: apples, blueberries, chocolate, coffee, melons, peaches, potatoes, pumpkins, vanilla, almonds, and even tequila.

Did you know that there are other pollinators, besides the honey bee that help with pollination? Here are some:

Native bees: Bumble bees, Carpenter bees, Sweat bees.

Butterflies: many species

Beetles: not efficient pollinators but play a role

Flies: visit many species of plants

Birds: Hummingbirds play an important role

Bats: important in the Southwest

Moths: attracted to flowers that are strongly sweet smelling, open in late afternoon or night

Please feel free to give me any feedback and let me know if you have any ideas to make this newsletter more engaging for you.

Karin Janson, Germantown Garden Club
kjanson@aol.com

From the Director

Happy spring to everyone!

This year, National Garden Week is Sunday, June 5–Saturday, June 11. It's a great time to reflect on your club's accomplishments this past year and goals for the upcoming year. Regardless of club size, each member plays a vital role in their club's history, growth, and outreach. We are in clubs to learn about gardens and gardening, floral design, horticulture, community gardens, civic beautification, historical preservation, and environmental issues, to name just a few. And don't forget the social aspect that clubs give us—meeting new friends and sharing our expertise, life experience, and families. Connecting with others promotes a healthy life. Take time this year to celebrate you, during National Garden Week, because without the yous, there wouldn't be garden clubs.

And we need garden clubs with the fabulous members we have, to continue what was started 92 years ago. Indeed, we are performing some of the same things that our founding members did back then: civic beautification, planting trees along public streets, maintaining flower gardens in public spaces, and campaigning against billboards (then, now different causes) which were considered eyesores. We are the advocates for scholarships that provide educational assistance to future leaders; a clean environment; healthy living conditions worldwide; organic gardening; community gardens to feed children so no child will be hungry; and flower arranging as a way to lift spirits and bring beauty into our homes, nursing homes, homeless shelters, adult homes, and community businesses. We make a difference, ladies and gentlemen, in many people's lives by caring! And that is why I am proud to know and work with each and everyone in our clubs. We are a TEAM—Together/Teaching Everyone Achieves More.

That's all for now, keep gardening, sharing ideas, and have fun!

Camille McComb, Director

PS I will be hosting a Third District Fund Raiser during National Garden Week. Save the date, June 7, 2016, see page 3 for more information.



At the Capital District Flower and Garden Show booth with Jean Horn from Clematis Garden Club.

The booth was designed by club members from eight counties. Over 2,000 visitors attended the show on the three-day weekend.

GARDEN CLUB TRIVIA

by Camille McComb

And now for some trivia questions:

1. The FGCNYS, Inc. has _____ Districts.
2. Christine Davis is the President of the FGCNYS, Inc. True or False?
3. BEAUTIFICATION, PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION are the objectives and purpose for which the State Federation was formed. True or False?
4. The NGC, Inc. is a non-profit educational organization. The membership is composed of 5,602 member garden clubs with 178,946 members in 50 states. In addition, there are 654 international affiliates, making NGC the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. Member of CAR. Aren't you proud to be a member of this organization? Of course, TRUE!
5. How many counties are in the Third District? 6 7 8 10
6. There are _____ District Meetings per year where members can mingle with friends, make new friends, learn something new and different with an educational program, share conversation over a delicious lunch, receive awards for a job well done, network, shop, and enjoy the day.
7. The Third District and FGCNYS, Inc. are now on Facebook. True or False?
8. The _____ is the Official Flower of NYS.
9. Correct body mechanics can prevent injury when gardening. True or False?
10. _____ is the official communication form in the Third District.

See below for answers.

YEARBOOKS!

Director Camille McComb needs your yearbooks...how else can she BRAG about all the WONDERFUL things you are doing!!

INCREASE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION

The 2015–2017 NGC President's Special 2-Year Project, "Service in Action," is intended to increase awareness of the seriousness of the demise of pollinators and amphibians and encourage conservation and protection efforts by clubs, the general public, and governmental agencies.

Often called the first bio-indicators, amphibians and pollinators, by their presence, abundance, and activities reveal the state of their ecosystems. Pollinator and amphibian populations are declining worldwide through the effects of pesticides, habitat destruction, diseases, parasites, global warming, and introduced predators. Education, habitat conservation, and protection of at risk populations are issues we can change through our actions.

Clubs, states, and regions are encouraged to participate in the BeeGAP, Monarch Watch, The Frightened Frog, and Backyard Wildlife Habitat programs and projects designed to engage members in efforts to protect and conserve these important populations. More information can be found at www.gardenclub.org.



ANSWERS:

1. 10; 2. False; 3. True; 4. Already answered;
5. 8; 6. 2; 7. True; 8. Rose; 9. True;
10. *The Digest*



YOU'RE INVITED

Camille McComb, Director
Invites you to the

**Third District Fund Raiser
during National Garden Week
Tuesday, June 7
at her home from noon–3 p.m.**

Riverview Cafe, a farm-to-table restaurant, will cater this event. Located in the epicenter of Stuyvesant, they are known for their creative new American dishes and comfort food made from scratch. They use organic ingredients from local Hudson Valley farms. Meghan Van Alstyne, owner, and Dan Cunningham, chef, work closely together to ensure the dining experience is one the diner will truly enjoy and remember!

An auction will be held, dress for the weather, and bring your competitive side for a fun time bidding on items! Money generated covers operating funds for the district such as insurance, speaker fees, flowers, and various expenses.

Cost: \$20/person

**RSVP to Camille McComb by June 1 at cpmccomb@yahoo.com
or cell 518-378-2480.**

Location: 89 Albany Avenue, Kinderhook, NY

This will be a true farm-to-table experience and TEAM effort.



New York in Bloom

Six clubs in Third District participated in the 25th annual New York in Bloom exhibition at the New York State Museum February 19–21. This yearly fundraising event supports the museum’s diverse children’s educational programs. One hundred and nine floral designers, garden clubs, master gardeners, and floral wholesalers from the greater Capital District provided exquisite floral displays interpreting various galleries within the museum’s permanent collection. Kinderhook Garden Club member, Renata Benenati, a long time exhibitor at this event, created two arrangements—the first a classic all-white display illustrating the principles of mass design on view within the Fifth Avenue section and the second in the Adirondack Hall. Third district clubs that participated at the event included Clematis, Greenport, Guilderland, The Garden Club of Kinderhook, Schoharie Valley, and Western Hills.



Clematis Garden Club's arrangement.



One of Greenport Garden Club's arrangements.



Guilderland Garden Club's display.



Renee Benenati's arrangement for the Garden Club of Kinderhook.



Schoharie Valley Garden Club's arrangement.



Western Hills Garden Club's arrangement.

Highlights from the District III Spring Meeting



Members of the Greenport Garden Club man the registration table.



*Top: members wearing their Toppers.
Bottom: Renee Benenati with Dr. George Crosby who was the speaker at the meeting.*



Renee Benenati displays her arrangement for the NY in Bloom show. Camille McComb created a photo collage, shown at right, depicting highlights from the event.

A RECAP ON THE CAPITAL DISTRICT FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

by Diane Madden

As you probably know, the Third District setup an information/membership booth at the Capital District Flower and Garden Show at Hudson Valley Community College on March 18, 19, and 20. We had a 6-foot long table in an 8 by 8-foot booth between the Audubon Society and PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management); who turned out to be very pleasant neighbors. The table was manned, or should I say womaned, in 2 or 3-hour shifts, sometimes by one member and during busier times by two.

The large round state seal was suspended on the curtain backdrop. An iron trellis displayed the pictures of our projects and programs. The pictures were awesome—if we only had more room! Cathy Fruhauf and Maureen McNamara did a beautiful job on the decorations. On the table there was a map of eastern NY State with beautiful stickpins indicating the location of all 27 clubs in Third District.

There was also a handout list of clubs that did respond to my request back in February for their contact information. I know some of you were a bit put out that your club wasn't on the list, but I wouldn't assume to distribute personal emails and phone numbers from my list of clubs to strangers (and believe me, some were quite strange) unless I had your permission in advance.

Ah! Then we put out the "bait." It was a \$25 gift certificate from Hewitt's Garden Center (there are several stores all over the area). They just had to fill out a raffle ticket and put it in the fishbowl on the table. While they were filling out the ticket we would ask them "Are you a member of a garden club, would you like to be?" It was impossible to make it past our friendly personable volunteers in

the booth unless you were a ninja. There were literally thousands and thousands of raffle tickets filled out, garbage bags full! There was also a clipboard on the table where people could sign up to be contacted if they were sincerely interested in becoming a member.

The people filling out the slips were from all over: north, south east and west, Vermont, Mass., even someone from Brooklyn, NY. If they didn't live in our district, we handed them the Federated Garden Club of NYS brochure for contact information. We gave away hundreds of those and ran out before the end of the show.

On Sunday afternoon, our very own Lynne Arnold did a very interesting and informative presentation on wildflowers. The talk included general wildflower horticulture information and a power point slide show of her garden in Mahopac, NY. The handouts included the slide show wildflowers, trees, and shrubs with botanical name, common name and date of bloom; a list of native trees and shrubs; and a landscape breakdown of examples of a tree, shrubs, and wildflowers, for wet, open, and woodland areas. We appreciate the time and the distance she traveled to join us. The presentation was excellent.

How many times did we sink the hook? I can't say for sure. It was fun talking to the people and we made a several good gardening contacts. More importantly, the FGCNYS, Inc. was spotlighted and the benefits of joining the organization were clearly communicated. Thank you to all who volunteered your time and energy to make this endeavor so successful.

The good news, it's in the works to take this traveling road show to the Altamont Fair in August. More information will follow.



Our booth at the show.



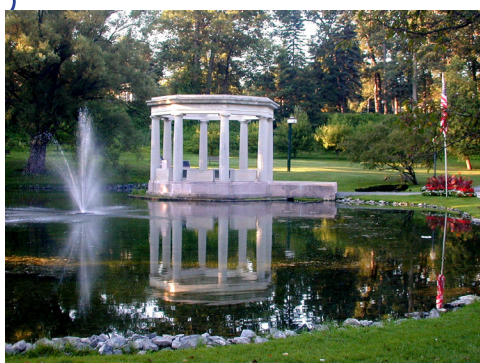
Volunteers from the Hugh Plat Garden Club manning the booth (l to r): Susan Bushman, Hannah Pavoldi, and Fran Scrafford.



District director Camille McComb talks to visitors.



THIRD DISTRICT TRIP: *Congress Park, Saratoga*



*Camille McComb, Director, Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.
Invites you to explore Congress Park in Saratoga, NY*

June 16, 2016

Congress Park was designed in 1875 by Frederick Law Olmstead who also designed Central Park in New York City. The park is open dawn to dusk and is FREE. Tour gardens, ponds, natural springs, fountains, and Grecian Pavilions.

Canfield Casino, located in Congress Park, is an historic 1870 gambling casino, named a National Historic landmark, with beautiful architectural details, vaulted ceilings, Tiffany glass windows, and plays host to countless weddings and events.

We will tour the **Saratoga Springs History Museum**. The museum is located in the Canfield Casino. Exhibits highlighting areas of the city's history are featured, and its permanent collections include **Telling the Story of Saratoga, The High Stakes Gambling Room**, and touring the **Walworth Memorial Museum**. The Saratoga Springs History Museum has interactive displays as well as artifacts and exhibits that continue to tell Saratoga's story.

Tour from 10 a.m.–4 p.m.,
\$4 for Seniors/\$5 for Adults.

Meet at 10 a.m. in Congress Park:

The Canfield Casino in Congress Park
1 East Congress Street
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-584-6920

Lunch at: Scallions Restaurant

44 Lake Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY
Visit Schuyler Pond at Scallions afterwards,
shopping for a treat.

Feel like a child, take a ride on the **Wooden Carousel** built in 1910 by Marcus Charles Illions, who carved 28 horses to craft a carousel with the intention of "wowing" children of all ages. **The Congress Park Carousel is the only one of Illions' two-row carousels still in working order!**

RSVP by May 19 to Camille McComb at
cpmccomb@yahoo.com or cell 518-378-2480.

GARDEN THERAPY

HOW OUR CLUBS HELP OTHERS

by Vivian Wachsberger, District III Garden Therapy Chair

GREENBUSH GARDEN CLUB

Since 1974, the Greenbush Garden Club has continuously participated in garden therapy sessions with the residents of Van Rensselaer Manor, the Rensselaer County nursing and rehab facility in Troy.

The club set-up a schedule with the facilities director for 4 or 5 sessions a year. They provide containers, floral material, decorations, and assistance to enable 30–35 residents make individual floral arrangements which they can take back to their rooms. The sessions take place in the center's activity room with usually five residents to each table. One club member is assigned to each table to assist with the arrangements and interact on a personal basis with the residents.

Mugs and containers with oasis already in them are provided and the flowers are purchased (usually at Price Chopper) and are cut to size before distributing them. Greens and flowers are sometimes provided by club members from their gardens.

They usually 'theme' the arrangements: Christmas, Halloween, Valentine's Day, St. Pats, Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras. They make decorations to add to the arrangements.

GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

This club started doing garden therapy at the Payn Residence once a month. The first Wednesday of the month they bring flowers and vases and help the residents do arrangements for the tables in the dining room. About a year ago, they were asked if they could come more often. Now, on the third Wednesday of the month they bring supplies to do a flower-related craft which the residents can take back to their rooms and keep.

HELPING OTHERS

Both clubs express that the most wonderful thing about Garden Therapy is that it is an activity which can be enjoyed by many of their club members, even if they are physically or challenged. It allows the seniors and residents at the nursing homes to express their creativity and recall pleasant memories. The most important part of Garden Therapy is the friendship and attention given to the residents. It's a win-win situation.



YEARBOOK CONTEST

You can't win it until you are in it!

Please send one copy of your Yearbook to me by June 1, 2016 so it can be judged.

I would like to see 100% participation!

Send to:

Barbara Campbell
14 Deerpath Dr.
New Paltz, NY 12561

Any questions, email me at
bcdeerpath@aol.com

WHO IS DISTRICT III?

District Three Clubs, by County

Albany: Blue Creek, Garden Study Club of Albany, Guilderland, Helderview, Town and Country

Columbia: Germantown, Greenport, The Garden Club of Kinderhook

Dutchess: Tioronda

Greene-Schoharie: Athens, Clematis, Coxsackie, 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, Hillside Acres, New Paltz, Saugerties Society of Little Gardens, Shawangunk, Ulster, Woodstock

Save the Date!

October 23–25, 2016

NGC-CAR Fall Conference
hosted by Federated Garden
Clubs of NYS
The Gideon Putnam Hotel
Saratoga Springs
'Historic Treasures of NY'

Flower Show News

Contemplate having a flower show? In addition to judging, the people listed below can answer or help you find answers to whatever questions may arise. The chairman of our Judges Council is Patricia Blundell (contact information below).

Third District Flower Show Judges

Lynne Arnold, 68 Merritt Lane, Newburgh, NY 12550; 845-821-4079
larnold@ix.netcom.com

Antoinette Babb, 125 West Bridge, St., Saugerties, NY 12477; 845-246-4445
aplantlady1011@hotmail.com

Patricia Blundell, 45 Lafayette St. Saugerties, NY 12477-1012; 845-246-3611;
floralartistry01@hvc.rr.com

Barbara Campbell, 14 Deerpath Drive, New Paltz 12561-2811; 845-255-7446;
bcdeerpath@aol.com

Gail Edson, 14 Hemlock Lane, Hyde Park, NY 12538-2108; 845-229-9857

Erna Gundlach, 15 River Park Drive, New Paltz, NY 12561; 845-255-1035;
ERNAG2003@aol.com

Jackie Petro, 9 Lainey Lane, Kingston, NY 12401-6109; 845-331-9133

Nancy Stahl, 6018 Veeder Rd, Slingerlands, NY 12159; 518-456-8998

WILDFLOWERS

Large-Flowered Bellwort

by *Lynne Arnold, District III Wildflower Chair*
Uvularia grandiflora

Appearing on the heels of the first wave of April flowers is the large-flowered bellwort. This spring specialty seems to be perpetually drooping, hanging its head in a vain attempt to hide its subtle beauty. With long, slightly twisted petals held in a partially closed position, big merry-bells appears never to be fully in bloom.

Large-flowered bellwort makes a great focal center in a woodland garden. It spreads slowly by rhizomes to form attractive clumps. It does well in any well-drained soil, in medium to full shade. Flowers are 1–2-inches long, and the plant can reach 2-feet tall. It prefers well-drained, chiefly calcareous soils on steep to moderate slopes in rich woodlands.

Old botanical manuals swear by a Colonial-era poultice made from the leaves and flowers used to remedy toothache. Its medicinal value was well known to New England's indigenous population, which used a root tea to alleviate a whole host of rheumatic pains and fevers.



CLEMATIS GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTY

by Jean Horn

The Clematis Garden Club, in Greenville, celebrated its 75th Anniversary at our annual Holiday Luncheon. Past member and historian, Nick Nahas presented an informative presentation of historical club pictures. The presentation depicted the growth of our club over the years from its simple beginning in 1940. Seven women met and chose the name of the club from a beautiful clematis vine that grew over hostess Miss Chatterson's front door. The Clematis Garden Club has grown bigger and better with wonderfully active members for 75 years.

A bus trip to NYC to visit the 911 Memorial which is planned on Thursday, June 2. The bus leaves at 7:30 a.m. from GNH parking lot in Greenville and also picks up at the Catskill exit 21 parking lot at 7:45 a.m. The first stop is the inspiring and beautiful 911 Memorial which honors our fallen. Passengers may tour the grounds, waterfall, and surrounding area for no charge and/or the newly opened Museum for a small fee. The next stop is Mulberry Street in Little Italy for lunch on your own. The last stop is Ringwood, NJ to tour the NJ Botanical Garden for no charge arriving home at 6 p.m. The bus trip is sponsored by Clematis Garden Club. The cost for this bus trip is \$40 and it is open to the public. Please join us. For info, please call Jean 518-966-4260 or Marie 239-4000.

Spring Tea: Beautiful Spring Flowers

by Marie Hennings

At our Spring Tea, Elizabeth Walker, owner of Floral Design of the Hudson Valley, member and former president of the Woodstock Garden Club, did a presentation for the club. She has been arranging flowers since the 1990s. Elizabeth competes annually in the Philadelphia Flower Show, earning several blue ribbons and best in class. She discussed uses of many of our spring flowers, and demonstrated her flower arranging skills by putting together several beautiful arrangements. All these arrangements were raffled off to lucky winners.



This year our club celebrates our 75th Anniversary. Pictured are Carolyn Sadowski (left), who produced the poster, and current President, Mary Heisinger (right).



One of the beautiful arrangements that Elizabeth Walker designed.

Flower Show Facts, Reminders, and Suggestions

by Patricia Blundell, District III Awards Chair

FACTS:

Page 1 of the Handbook for Flower Shows explains the many wonderful reasons for Garden Club members to take the time to present a Flower Show.

- Purposes of a Standard Flower Show:
- To educate club members and the viewing public.
- To stimulate interest in horticulture and design.
- To provide an outlet for creative expression.
- To convey to the community objectives of NGC.

Being inspired by the above, hopefully, club members will then follow through with the decision to present a flower show.

REMINDERS

Before a date is selected for a Flower Show, it is proper procedure for the club President/Flower Show Chairman to contact the District Director. The date selected by the club should be cleared with the

Director, to avoid conflict of any scheduled District activities.

It is also advisable to contact the Judges Council Chairman to be sure the necessary number of Judges will be available for the date selected.

SUGGESTIONS

Judges Council members are available to assist a club in writing a schedule, and answering any questions regarding the flower show in general. We can also assist with advice on applying for awards, if needed. Awards information is necessary before the schedule is completed.

The club members will receive great satisfaction from sharing their talent, creativity, and expertise by presenting a Flower Show. Visitors to flower shows are always appreciative of the members' efforts.

With all of the above taken into consideration, one most important factor is to enjoy and have fun!

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

In keeping with our club's theme for 2016 "Make Every Day Earth Day," we hosted a lecture with well-known lecturer and author Tovah Martin. The subject of the presentation was "Trowels and Tomorrow: Garden Stewardship." The main theme of the lecture was horticultural preservation and included topics such as what to do with inherited landscapes of mature trees and shrubs, techniques for their rehabilitation, and plant preservation of heirloom species. Ms. Martin is the author of such books as *The Unexpected Houseplant* and *The New Terrarium*. Her articles have appeared in publications including *Country Gardens*, *County Home*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *O the Oprah* magazine, and *Horticulture* magazine. The event was offered in conjunction with the Germantown Library. A book signing with the author followed. It was a full house, with both club members and the community attending.

At our April meeting, members and guests heard Larry Federman, former Education Coordinator for three Audubon sanctuaries, give a talk on "The Effects of Climate Change on Local Birds of the Hudson Valley." Mr. Federman discussed what potential effects climate change has on our local birds and what we as gardeners can do to help alleviate some of these effects. His presentation included a slide show of many of our area birds with their calls, which helped to enable us to identify them. A lively question and answer session followed.

Our club held its very popular Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 14. Club members contributed plants from their own gardens and were on hand to answer gardening questions. Annual flowers, perennials, vegetables, and herbs were available for purchase. Funds raised at this event support the club's Germantown High School Scholarship Fund and other important donations and projects for the town that the club provides.



Club member Karin Janson (left) and lecturer and author Tovah Martin (right) at Ms. Martin's book signing.



Geraniums offered at our Annual Plant Sale.

YOUR CLUB HAS TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

by Patricia Blundell, District III Awards Chair

We are all familiar with the expression, "You've got to be in it to win it!" That expression certainly pertains to our District Awards Program.

Every single club in Third District is 'in it' with all your wonderful projects such as: civic beautification, historic preservation, garden therapy, horticulture therapy, publications, etc., to name a few.

The key now is to 'win it'—Awards!

Applying for awards is a very easy process. Before, during, and after starting a project, document your club's work as it progresses with photos. Then follow this

up with a thorough description of what was accomplished, include the number of members who participated, and the cost involved—all details that convey the impact of how your project has made in your community. Make sure to include any accolades you receive from people in your town such as letters of commendation from community leaders, etc.

Secure an awards application form online from the FGCNYS website (www.fgcnys.com/AwardsandForms.html), enter all of the above listed information on three pages, one side only of each page (the page count includes the actual application form.)

Inform the District Awards Coordinator (me) of your intent to apply for an award by September 1. Mail completed form with all pertinent information to the District Awards Coordinator (me) by October 1. Note: All awards applications are mailed to the District Awards Coordinator (me) with the exception of Yearbooks and Press Books. Being "in it" and "winning it" not only brings satisfaction, it is the recognition of a job well done! Let's share our talent!

Editor's note. You can contact Pat at floralartistry01@hvc.rr.com to inform her about your intent to apply for an award and to get her mailing address.

HUGH PLAT GARDEN CLUB

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

by Mary Ann De Fonce

The Hugh Plat Garden Club held a lively January meeting at the home of President Sue Bushman. The program agenda for 2016 was set as well as ideas exchanged for increasing membership in the future, an important goal for many Federated Clubs of late.

At our February meeting, we had fun in the mud making flower seed “bombs.” Mixing clay, water, potting soil, fertilizer, and annual and perennial flower seeds, we formed bomb balls to use to beautify our surroundings! In late spring we will all search out spots that we think could use a bit of color and toss a seed bomb or two on the ground. Hopefully Mother Nature will provide plenty of sunshine and a few showers to germinate our mini gardens. We will keep track of our locations so other club members can drive by and enjoy the show!

For our March meeting, we attended the annual Capitol District Garden and Flower Show at HVCC in Troy, where some of our members took a turn manning this year’s FGCNYS, Inc. Third District booth.

For three of Hugh Plat members, the evening of March 15 was an evening of revelation. We attended a seminar at Faddegon’s Nursery in Niskayuna given by gardening guru, Kerry Mendez. While all of Kerry’s seminars are chocked full of useful gardening information, this one was loaded with handy tips. Her presentation included info on easier to live with perennials that got your hands itching to get in a pair of gloves, deep in the soil. Other topics included switching out old standbys that were difficult to maintain, keep blooming, deadheading, etc., with easy to grow ones with the same coloring and growth habits. The difference: easy to maintain and grow and thus increasing the enjoyment factor. I can’t wait to get out there and be brutal, ignoring that little voice in the back of my mind that hates to get rid of plants I have struggled with forever, just because I can’t give up and admit they are more difficult than the amount of joy I get from them. Her new book is a great guide for this gardening exorcism.

On April 15, Hugh Plat members and guests visited the Gade Farm in Guelderland and participated in a workshop presented by the knowledgeable and entertaining Amy Castillo, who guided us in making fairy gardens and terrariums. What a great topic for our Friendship Month meeting!

For our May meeting, noted artist Nancy Cooper presented a program on flower artistry.

In June our club will enjoy a tour and tasting at the new Indian Ladder Brewery and Cidery!



Above: Sue Bushman, Dolores Krause, and Norma Maughan having fun forming flower bomb balls!

Middle: Fran Scrafford showing her molding technique.

Below: My bombs ready to take home and set out to dry.

GREENPORT GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

The Greenport Garden Club held a workshop on “Cultivating Pollinator-Friendly Habitats in the Garden” on Thursday, April 7 at the Greenport Town Hall. Linda Aydlett, Master Gardener of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties, presented the topic. Linda is a volunteer and avid beekeeper who explained why more than 80 percent of the world’s plants would not survive without bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and other pollinators. Her talk centered on making gardens enticing havens for these remarkable creatures. Packets of flower seeds that attracts pollinators were distributed to members. We were encouraged to help our pollinators who are struggling with survival in a time of environmental change, habitat destruction, and use of pesticides and herbicides. Gardeners—they need our help!

40th Anniversary Celebration: Join Us at the Garden Party!

The Greenport Garden Club is celebrating four decades of dedication to promoting the love of gardening, floral design, civic, and environmental responsibility, and beautifying personal and community spaces. We have served the city of Hudson and the town of Greenport since the club’s inception. To celebrate this milestone with us we invite all Third District garden club members to join us at our Garden Party on Thursday, June 23 at the home and gardens of club members Agnes and Tony LaSalvia in Taghkanic.

Agnes and Tony have been creating beautiful gardens for forty years. Mixed perennials, shrubs, small trees, grasses, and annuals make up several gardens on a rolling landscape complete with a Koi pond.

The party will begin at 5 p.m. with a cocktail hour and a 6 p.m. buffet. Members and their guests are invited. Please send your RSVP by contacting Greenport Garden Club President, Kathy Bucholsky at Kathy150@verizon.net or call 518-828-9210 with the name of your club, phone number, and number attending by June 16. Directions will be forwarded once we receive your confirmation. The club would appreciate a donation of \$10, at the Garden Party, to help us continue our student environmental scholarship programs.



Linda Aydlett (left) and Greenport Garden Club Member JoAnn Concra (right).



TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack

Our club held our annual installation of officers ceremony on March 9, 2016. Former FGCNYS Third District Director Clara Lou Gould officiated at the ceremony. Gary Barrack was elected president for 2016. A covered dish supper followed to celebrate the occasion and to officially start the 2016 Tioronda Garden Club year. Last fall, the club was the beneficiary of a grant from the Samuel Morse Estate at Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie. We were given over 500 large daffodil bulbs, with the stipulation that they be planted in public locations throughout the City. Members planted them at the club’s Patriot’s Garden and at other prominent locations throughout the city. We are anxiously awaiting the blooming of these new born daffodils.



THE GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Sue Chiafullo

At our March 8 meeting, members of the club enjoyed making colorful Springtime basket arrangements. The activity was coordinated by club member and designer extraordinaire Anne Schomaker. Anne chose a lovely variety of flowers and greens for use by the members, who utilized a basket of their choice. The creations were varied and beautiful.

Our club held its annual spring meeting and luncheon on April 12 at the Columbia Golf and Country Club. An estimated 50 members took part in the festivities welcoming new members and the incoming board members. Officers and board members for 2016-2017 are Susan Sweet, Treasurer; Barbara Irvine, Director; DeNola Perreten, Director; Maryann Weber, Secretary; Sandra Wooding, President; Roberta Smith, First Vice President and Carol Seastrand, Director; and Camille McComb, Second Vice President. Details of club events for the upcoming year were outlined including the upcoming plant and bake sale, the club's primary fund raiser, held on Saturday, May 21 in the Kinderhook Village Square.

At the recent Third District meeting at Kozel's Restaurant in Ghent, member Renee Benenati, recreated her fabulous arrangement that was in the New York State Museum's NY in Bloom show. Camille McComb created a photo collage that highlighted this event.

Our flower show committee met April 25 to plan the 2016 flower show to be held on September 24 and 25 in the Kinderhook Town Hall in Valatie. The show is being co-chaired by Kristina Lang and Eileen McHugh-Szpezzy. The horticulture classes are being supervised by Carolyn Beveridge. This bi-annual event is a competition and follows the guidelines put forth by the National Garden Clubs. Members will showcase their creativity, design talents, and 'green thumbs' as they interpret the theme "This Land Is Your Land"—a salute to the centennial anniversary of the National Parks. The show will be open to the public from 1-4 p.m., on the September 24 weekend.



Anne Schomaker and Cynthia Bogardus with a basket arrangement from the workshop in March.



Members (left to right) Aimee Strunk-Reinoehl, Camille McComb, and Sue Chiafullo making colorful Springtime basket arrangements.



New officers and board members were installed at the club's spring meeting. From left to right: Susan Sweet, Treasurer; Barbara Irvine, Director; DeNola Perreten, Director; Maryann Weber, Secretary; Sandra Wooding, President; Roberta Smith, First Vice President and Carol Seastrand, Director.



The flower show committee starting left: Patricia Leary, Eileen McHugh-Szpezzy, Tina Lang, Carol Finklestein, Cynthia Bogardus, Renee Benenati, and Carol Seastrand.

SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTY

by Anne Bielawski

For our next meeting in May, we will be going to the Butterfly Conservatory and visit Annuto's Farm Stand, both of which are in Oneonta. The Butterfly Conservatory in Oneonta is an enclosed greenhouse-type building that houses different types of butterflies.

In June, we head to the Landis Arboretum in Esperance—to view the lilac collection. The Landis Arboretum is on a 548-acre private estate. It is one of only three arboreta in eastern North

America with old-growth forests—and Landis has two! It has a nationally recognized collection of oaks, with miles of hiking/walking trails. It boasts beautiful gardens and is a designated site on NYS Route 20 Bluebird Trail. They have several different types of lilacs, which should be in bloom while we're there.

For July, we will visit the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville to see their gardens. And in August, we will take a trip to Cherry Valley and go to Let It Grow Nursery. The Let It Grow Nursery is a well-stocked nursery out in the beautiful countryside, near Cooperstown.

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTY DAY

August 26, 2016

The History of Wine Making in the Hudson River Valley



Sylvia Hasenkopf, a noted professional historian, genealogist, and author will present a program on wine making in the Hudson River Valley dating back to the middle 19th century. A few of the vineyard sites were located at Cedar Grove; the James Powers property on the bank of the Hudson River, now known as the Beatty Powers House; and the Ezra Fitch Grapery in Coxsackie.

Luncheon will be served at Pegasus Restaurant located on Rte. 9W in Coxsackie.

11:30 A.M. Appetizers of cheeses, crudités, and fruits will precede lunch. Mingle with garden club members and guests. This event is not a fund raiser but an opportunity for clubs to bond and exchange information.

12:15 P.M. Luncheon

Choices are salmon with dill sauce or Chicken Piccata served with mashed potatoes and broccoli, or tri-colored ravioli. All entrees will be accompanied with salad, rolls and butter, coffee or tea. Dessert will be strawberry layer cake.

Program presentation by Sylvia Hasenkopf

Send reservations to Carole Garvar, 149 Sleepy Hollow Road Unit 1149, Athens, N.Y 12015. Make checks payable to Greene-Schoharie County Garden Clubs. Cost is \$22. Please send one check per club with a list of names and menu choices.

Awards

by Patricia Blundell, Awards Coordinator

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS AWARDS:

Civic Development:

Historic Preservation: Trails, Gardens:

First Place: Greenbush Garden Club

Roadside Beautification:

First Place: Greenbush Garden Club

Youth Awards:

Youth Education:

First Place: Greenbush Garden Club

Flower Show Awards:

Schedule Citation: Standard Flower Show:

First Place: Germantown Garden Club

Standard Flower Show Citation:

First Place: Germantown Garden Club

Honorable Mention: Community Garden Club of Marlborough

Publicity Press Book Awards:

Medium Club:

First Place: Germantown Garden Club

Large Club:

Second Place: Garden Club of Kinderhook

Group of Member Clubs:

First Place: District Three

World Gardening Awards:

Athens Community GC

Catskill GC

Clematis GC

Community GC of Marlborough

Germantown GC

Greenbush GC

Greenport GC

H. Gilbert Harlow GC

Hillside Acres GC

Saugerties Society of Little Gardens

Schoharie GC

Shawangunk GC

Largest Contribution to World Gardening by a Garden Club:

Shawangunk GC.

World Gardening Citation:

District Three

THIRD DISTRICT AWARD:

The Lucy Staley World Gardening Award, which is a check for \$25, was presented to the Shawangunk Garden Club.

Congratulations and thanks to all the clubs that shared their projects with me.



Congratulations to all the winners at our Spring District meeting.

GARDEN CLUBS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

Roberta Smith and Eileen McHugh Szepessy, Co-Chairs

The Columbia County Garden Clubs have planned an exciting array of activities and events.

The **Germantown Garden Club**'s theme for 2016 is "Make Every Day Earth Day." Their annual plant and tag sale took place on May 14th at Palatine Park. In May, they held a bird walk at Clermont Historic Site in Germantown. The club had an educational exhibit at the Germantown Library about pollinators. In June, the club will visit and tour Naumkeag in Stockbridge, MA. Their annual Flower Show will be held in September. This year, the flower show will be part of The Apple Festival, held annually in Germantown. In October, the club will hold a holiday card workshop.

The **Greenport Garden Club** held their annual luncheon on March 10 at Yanni's in Chatham. On April 7th, Master Gardener, Linda Aydlett, did a presentation on Cultivating Pollinator Friendly Habitats in the Garden—Bees, Birds, Butterflies, Bats, and other Pollinators. Members of the club took a trip to the New York Botanical Gardens on April 14. On May 5, Erin Brady did a demonstration on Creating a Spring Centerpiece. Their tag sale was held at the Greenport Pumper Company #1, on May 7. The club held their plant sale on May 21, at the Mt. Pleasant Reformed Church in Greenport. The club has also scheduled a garden cleanup and planting at the Greenport Town Hall.

The **Garden Club of Kinderhook** held their annual spring meeting and installation luncheon at the Columbia Golf and Country Club in Claverack on April 12. President-elect is Sandra Wooding. On May 4, the club went on a tour of Washington Park at the Capitol in Albany to see the tulips in bloom. Martin Teumin addressed the club on 'Gardening in a Changing Climate' on May 10. The annual plant and bake sale was held at the Kinderhook Village Square on May 21. At the June 14 membership meeting, Kevin Jacobs will speak on 'Farm to Table.' The club will tour the Berkshire Botanical Gardens on June 20. In September, the club will hold a fall plant sale in conjunction with the Village of Kinderhook tag sale. Also in September, the Club will have their biannual standard flower show.

The **Columbia County Garden Clubs** held a meeting in May to explore ideas and plans for National Garden Club Week and for the Columbia County Fair. This year, the Greenport Garden Club and the Garden Club of Kinderhook will participate in the fair.

The Columbia County Garden Clubs invite all of you to join with us in these exciting events.

GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

Carole Garvar, Chair

Athens Community Garden Club: On May 19, "Hostas" with speaker Dave Jennings, Co-founder and first President of the Upstate NY Hosta Society. Members will continue the annual Education Project with students in grades K-4 from E.J. Arthur Elementary School teaching age-appropriate lessons on environmentally related topics. Members will prepare and plant gardens within the village. On June 6, the club will present a scholarship at the awards ceremony to a graduate of Coxsackie Athens High School. On June 16, the club will be sponsoring a bus trip to Wave Hill Garden in the Bronx. View lovely gardens as well as an art gallery and a gift shop. A pleasant café is available for lunch. All members and guests are welcome. There is no charge for the bus, but the cost of the garden tour is \$15 and lunch for \$15 must be prepaid. Checks can be sent to Treasurer Sue Van Buren, 12 Brom Bones Lane unit 2210, Athens, N.Y. 12015. Bus will leave Athens at 9:30 A.M. July 21, Installation of Officers for 2016-2017

Clematis Garden Club: May 13, a potting workshop at Cynthia Willis Greenhouse Rte. 145 Preston Hollow, N.Y. May 28, plant sale from 9 A.M. to Noon at Tops Country Square, Greenville. On June 2, the club is sponsoring a bus trip to NYC and NJ. It includes a visit to the 911 Memorial, Little Italy, and NJ Botanical Gardens. The cost is \$40 and the bus leaves at 7:30 A.M. returning at 6 p.m. Call Jean Horn at 518-966-4260 for information. The trip is open to all garden club members and guests. June 10, "Touring the Honey Hollow Micro Brewery." Matt Taormina will explain brewing methods using locally grown ingredients. July 8, "Visit to Four NY Gardens," a slide show by Joan Satterlee, featuring photos of Wave Hill, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, NY Botanical Gardens, and a private garden in Westchester County. August 12, the club's annual picnic and garden tour at the home of Roberta Nunn, at 239 CR 408, Westerlo.

Schoharie Valley Garden Club: In May, the club will take a trip to the Butterfly Conservatory and Annuto's Farm Stand in Oneonta. In June they will visit the Landis Arboretum in Esperance to view the lilac collection. In July the club will go to Cornell Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville for a garden tour. And in August they will go to the Let it Grow Nursery located in Cherry Valley. Contact President Anne Bielawski for information: tom-anne@midtel.com

The Lost Holocaust—A Family Story

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Greenport Garden Club

My 21-piece encaustic documentary 'The Lost Holocaust—A Family Story' will be exhibited at the Living Room Art Gallery at the historic St. Agnes Cemetery in Menands, NY from May 1 through June 30. I came to the project by a very personal route. In 1940 my entire family in Eastern Poland were deported to labor camps in Siberia. I found myself with a profound drive to convey my mother and her family's epic journey through an art form that is unique as it is beautiful. The family photos that I found through research have been encased in layers of beeswax and painted with encaustic medium and pigment oils. Twenty-one pieces reveal my mom's journey of pain and sorrow and her strength and will to survive.

The piece below left, features the young Polish girls who joined the International Red Cross to help the thousands of orphans coming from Siberia to Tehran's Polish Refugee camps. My mom is the girl on the first row on the left. She was 16 years old.

The Poles, imprisoned in these death camps, held on to their beloved Poland and sang songs in the camps and dreamed of poppy fields. Poppies are a symbol of 'remembrance.' The image



My mom is the girl on the first row on the left. She was 16 years old.

(below right) shows a Siberian camp house. I included an image of my family who were deported along with an image of the native song of Poland. Mom was 13 years old.

My medium, encaustic or hot wax painting, is an art that is ancient and dates back to the Egyptians. Beeswax, pigment oils, photographs, and found objects create beautiful, luminous, ethereal works. Layers of beeswax blended with pigment oils brings depth and texture to the artwork. I incorporate photographs and found objects into the hot wax to bring depth and texture. From the gardens to the hive to the canvas, my beautiful bees bring me this incredible medium. I have been an artist all my life, a beekeeper for six years, and an encaustic artist for five of those years. These works were healing for me as the story laid deep within my psyche. Working in the gardens, keeping bees, collecting honey and wax, and painting with the medium is exhilarating. The project has been shown throughout Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Ulster, and Saratoga counties, and in New York City and Lee, MA. It has been featured in *Metroland*, *Albany Times Union*, *Hill Country Observer* and published in *North Light Books—Incite 3: The Art of Story Telling*.



The piece above shows the native flower of Poland, poppies. This work is called "A Song for Poland."

Clubs Calendar 2016

June 2, 2016

Bus trip to NYC and NJ Botanical Garden, sponsored by the Clematis Garden Club.

June 7, 2016

Celebrate National Garden Week, Home of Director Camille McComb, Kinderhook.

June 16, 2016

District Trip, Congress Park, Saratoga.

June 21, 2016

FGCNYS, Inc. Summer Board Meeting, Westmere Fire Department, Albany.

June 23, 2016

Greenport Garden Club—40th Anniversary Celebration Garden Party, home of Agnes and Tony LaSalvia, Taghkanic.

June 23, 2016

Third District Board Meeting, location to be announced.

August 26, 2016

Greene-Schoharie County Day 'The History of Wine Making in the Hudson River Valley,' Pegasus Restaurant, Coxsackie.

September 12–13, 2016

FGCNYS, Inc. Fall Conference, Radisson Hotel, Utica.

September 17–18, 2016

Germantown Garden Club Flower Show 'An Apple A Day,' Palatine Parsonage, 52 Maple Ave., Germantown.

September 24–25, 2016

The Garden Club of Kinderhook Flower Show 'This Land is Your Land,' Kinderhook Town Hall, Valatie.

October 20, 2016

Fall District Meeting, 'Autumn Moon,' Pegasus Restaurant, Coxsackie.

October 23–25, 2016

NGC-CAR Fall Meeting and Conference, 'Historic Treasures of NY,' Gideon Putnam, Saratoga Springs.

October 26–27, 2016

FGCNYS, Inc. Fall Symposium, 'Everything New,' Gideon Putnam, Saratoga Springs.



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

International Photography Competition
Celebrating the National Parks System - USA
Entitled:

In wildness is the preservation of the world"

Henry David Thoreau

The contest is open

May 1 - August 1, 2016.

All the submissions will be juried.

The 30 highest scoring images

will be displayed and judged

in Portland, ME

Sept. 21-24, 2016

at the NGC Fall Board Meeting.

Competition Submission - Login at:

<http://cgburke.com/ngc/>

This competition is open to members of

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

and its affiliated organizations.

For more information: arabellasd@aol.com

Fees:

You may enter as many as 3 images. The fee for the 1st image is \$15 (US) and \$5 (US) for each additional image.

Image Preparation Guidelines:

All images must be submitted in the "JPG" format.

Image Resolution:

Each image must have a minimum resolution of 300 pixels per inch.

Dimension:

When the image resolution is 300, the maximum allowable dimensions for an image are 14 inches (4200 pixels) on the long side and 11 inches (3300 pixels) on the short side.

For images having a resolution greater than 300, a proportional increase in their dimensions is allowed. As an example, for an image with a resolution of 350 pixels per inch, the long side dimension may be 4900 pixels and the short side may be 3850 pixels.

File size: Minimum 2 Megabytes

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.

To access *The Digest*, go to the State website—fgcnys.com—select District III on the home page and then select Digest Online.