Idest **MAY 2020** THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC

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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 the Director



Greetings!

I don't know about you but I'm finding it hard to believe that it's already May. This has been a year of celebrating holidays and milestones away from each other, without the festive holiday dinners or the joyous parties, without sporting events, graduations, baptisms, memorial services, and weddings. It has been a year of increased concern about our health, the health of those we love, and the health of those we don't know. It has been a year of uncertainty as we faced an unknown virus with little idea of how to prepare for it or how to respond to it.

Each of us, if asked, would have a list of things that they have missed most over the past few months. Here's part of my list.

- I missed doing the installations of new garden club officers. That's always a fun thing to do and each club has its traditions.
- I missed joining clubs for their spring potluck, opening luncheon, or spring festivities. You get great conversation, learn what the club has planned for the year, and the food is always good.
- I missed going to meetings of my home garden club. Our program committee works hard to develop interesting programs and they are always enjoyable.
- I missed having our Board meetings in person.
- I missed our annual Spring Conference.

The reality, though, is that while I missed all my garden club activities, what I really missed was seeing and visiting with all our garden club members. I have to say that as a group we are resilient, creative, caring, compassionate, and involved! District III's members have made face masks for hospitals and nursing facilities. They have shopped on behalf of people who needed groceries and supplies. Members made sure that people who needed to get to appointments have gotten to them—and back safely. They have taken rides and walks together when someone had to get out of the house or just have human company. They have provided a friend to laugh with or a shoulder to cry on. And, of course, our members have gardened. I've heard of clubs trying to decide if members should plant their club gardens with individually assigned hours or if a limited number of members should plant together while maintaining social distancing. This version of The Digest is devoted to how our clubs have continued their activities over the last few months and how they have reached out to their members and their greater community.

As I write this it is too early to report whether or not District III's first virtual flower show, *Daffodil Surprise*, was a success with a lot of members participating. It is too soon to tell you whether or not we went on to do a second virtual flower show. But I want to say thank you to everyone who was involved in the planning and organization of the first show, with special thanks to Barbara Campbell, Lynne Arnold, and Gloria Cestero-Hurd. Barbara helped with the planning and judging. Lynne also served as a judge and Gloria kept all the entries organized as the registrar.

We made use of a Zoom meeting to judge the virtual show and it is a resource that is easy to use. If you haven't had a chance to explore it yet, take some time to do it. FGCNYS has created a Zoom account that can be used by the clubs for meetings and presentations. That information was sent out in April but let me know if you need to receive it again. It is easy to use and you can share pictures and documents as well as just seeing and talking with each other. You'll need to reserve the platform by getting in touch with our FGCNYS administrator, Linda Zell. I encourage you to be creative in your use of this platform. It's fun to use and it's another way to keep in touch during these PAUSE times.

Other online sources you need to be keeping an eye on are District III's Facebook page and District III's page on the FGCNYS webpage: http://www.fgcnys.com/District-III.html. The webpage is kept up-to-date and our Facebook page gets frequent postings of garden pictures and news. I've added dozens of must-see gardens to my travel bucket list! And while you're checking out our District's activities, take some time to look at what other districts in the state are doing.

Until we can once again meet in person, please stay in touch with all your club members, please stay well, and know that each of you are in my thoughts and prayers for a safe and healthy rest of the year.

Beth Elizabeth Walker, Director

YEARBOOK CONTEST

Even though we are quarantined, you can't win it until you are in it!

Please send one copy of your Yearbook to me by June 1, 2020 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





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/

GARDENING WITH FOOD SCRAPS

Submitted by Maureen McNamara from an article in the *Times Union* newspaper, 3/29/20 by Joan Morris, *The Mercury News*

Got fresh vegetables you're worried might start to rot? No worries. Use them to grow more. Here are some favorites:

Lettuce: Put lettuce leaves in a bowl with a little water, and set the bowl in an area that gets good sunlight. Mist the leaves a couple of times a week and once roots appear, transplant the rooted leaves in soil.

Celery: Cut the bottom of the stalk off and put it in a bowl with a little warm water. Put the bowl in direct sunlight. In a week or two, you'll see leaves start to grow along the base. Transplant it into a pot of soil. You can continue to grow it indoors, or set the pot outside in a sunny spot.

Onions and green onions: Cut onion about an inch above the root base (fuzzy end), put it in a pot of soil, root end down, and cover lightly with soil. Place the pot in a sunny spot and wait for the onion to sprout and produce a bulb.

For green onions, cut the root ends off and put them in a glass with just enough water to cover them. Change the water every few days. In about a week, you'll see new green onions appear. Snip off what you need and keep the others growing.

Basil: Some people can't live without a fresh supply of basil. Take one stem, at least 4 inches tall, and put it in a glass of water, keeping the leaves above the waterline. Put the glass in bright light, but not direct sun. Once the plant has developed a couple of inches of roots, you can plant it in soil.

Potatoes: You don't even need whole potatoes to grow your own. You can cut up potatoes that are sprouting, making sure each chunk has one eye (sprout). You can also grow potatoes from peels.

Cut the peels into 2-inch pieces, making sure there are two to three eyes on each piece. Let them sit overnight to dry out a bit and then plant them about 4-inches deep. Make sure the eyes are facing upward, and in a few weeks you should see leaves emerging from the soil.

Peppers: Collect seeds from peppers and plant them in potting soil. Keep moist and in direct sun until the seeds germinate. When the weather is warmer, plant in your garden. Save some seeds for next season.





The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us in multiple ways: inability to get together with friends and family, not being able to attend social events, keeping us away from our houses of worship, and the list goes on. Many of us are working from home or have been furloughed. For me, one of the things that I have missed the most has been getting out to the Third District clubs for officer installations, spring luncheons, plant sales, flower shows. And I was not happy that we had to cancel the annual Spring Meeting and Luncheon.

In the midst of all that I kept wondering how we could make our garden club members still feel active and engaged at the District level. I knew, of course, that everyone was reaching out to fellow members within their clubs. And then, around 2 a.m. one night, I got this wacky idea. What if we did a virtual flower show? (Sleep deprivation creativity at its best!)

After a couple of days of bouncing the idea around, I reached out to the Executive Committee and some of our Board members and suggested we give it a try. So we did. Several of us spent some time deciding what should be exhibited. Thanks go to Barbara Campbell for suggesting we keep this first show small and uncomplicated and for coming up with the name of the show: Daffodil Surprise. Barbara and Lynne Arnold both reviewed the show schedule and once we figured out some logistics, we were ready to go.

But oh those logistics. How were we to get the entries? How could we be sure that the entries were kept anonymous? How were we going to judge them? The first was easy. We set up an email account so people could send pictures of their exhibits to that account.

The second issue wasn't as easy. And here is where Gloria Cestero-Hurd stepped in. Acting as registrar, Gloria set up a system of receiving and tracking the photos and the botanical information. She renamed each of the entries to be sure the judges wouldn't see the names associated with the photos, assigning each of the entries a specialized number that identified the order in which it was received and both the Division and the Class being entered. Once all the entries were received, she sent a huge zipped file to me so it could be shared with the judges via a Zoom meeting. Once the judging was completed, Gloria then provided a further spreadsheet that tied the entries back to the exhibitor. Wow. It was a great effort on Gloria's part! And with the spreadsheets and a system in place, we'll be able to use the system for future virtual flower shows.

We didn't get a huge response from the District – 9 people made a total of 32 entries – but it's a start. We're thinking of doing another virtual flower show, maybe in June that focuses on roses, but will make some tweaks. More time to submit entries, additional design categories, etc. If you have any suggestions, please send me an email (eawalker2@gmail.com) and we'll consider them. In the meantime, thank you to everyone who entered the show and to everyone who helped organize and pull it off.

Plan on attending our Fall Conference. You'll be able to see pictures of all the entries and we'll hand out ribbons to the winners.



Best in Show! Above: Horticulture, Class 5B, Any other worthy specimen (Miniatures): Carolyn Beveridge (Kinderhook), Narcissus 'Morton Fox.' Right: Design, Class 2: Morning Magic: Lynne Arnold (Marlborough).



BLUE RIBBON WINNERS:



Horticulture: Class 1. Doubles. Priscilla Johnson (Blue Creek), Narcissus 'Ice King.'



Horticulture: Class 2. Large Cup. Gary Barrack (Tioronda), Narcissus.



Horticulture: Class 3. Trumpet Cup. Carol DeMicco (Tioronda), Narcissus 'Dutch Master.'



Horticulture: Class 4. Small Cup. Lynne Arnold (Marlborough), Narcissus 'Barrett Browning.'



Horticulture: Class 5A. Split Corona. Carolyn Beveridge (Kinderhook), Narcissus 'Congress.)



Design: Class 1: Golden Dreams. Priscilla Johnson (Blue Creek).

See page 12 for a full list of all the awards given.

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

Our garden club, like so many other organizations, has had to revise our plans for the spring of 2020. We did hold our first meeting in February. At that time, we were pleased to welcome two new members, Christina Bohnsack and Kate Farrar. Unfortunately, as we all have experienced, we were forced to cancel our March meeting, then our April meeting, and as of now, because of what seems like the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, all our activities for May. This includes our monthly meeting, bird walk, and plant sale. We have considered holding virtual meetings. Due to the make-up of our membership, some have computers and some do not, we felt that this was not workable for us. The biggest change we have decided to make concerns about our annual flower show. Germantown has held some sort of flower show for all of our 92 years. With the

uncertainty concerning the possibility of going back to 'normal' times and being unwilling to cancel the tradition of an annual show entirely, we made the decision to hold a different show. This year we will hold a 'Horticulture Specialty Show.' Please look to *The Digest* and local publications for an update.

Still housebound? Outdoor gardening not on your schedule? Maybe our houseplants could use some attention. Two things to do for them; repot root bound plants and (how often do we remember to do this) dust and give them a 'shower' in the kitchen sink or bathtub if large.

From Germantown to all our fellow garden clubs we say BE WELL AND BE SAFE!



Planing our year before COVID-19 struck. Back row (l. to r.): Melanie Nelson, Irene Clum, Elke Crane, and Maureen Lockwood. Front row (l. to r.): Joyce Vale, Fran Bufi, and Mattie Gifford.

BLUE CREEK GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Cynthia Campbell, Co-President with Paula Gaies

Hello, we just want to let you know what the Blue Creek Garden Club is up to. Basically, we don't have any plans for a meeting scheduled at this time. We are, however, all trying our best to prepare our gardens for spring planting. Clearing away any lingering leaves, sticks, etc. We are anxious to get out hands into the soil and begin sowing some seeds. I hope everyone has stayed healthy during this trying time, and look forward to getting back to whatever "normal" will be.



GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY by Michele Santoli

I hope all is well and those reading *The Digest* are staying healthy. Once the weather settles down, we will certainly be outside in our gardens bringing nature's beauty into our lives. It will be a welcome bit of sunshine and happiness to many!

Our Holiday Open House was a great success despite the slow start on Friday evening because of the weather. Thank goodness for Saturday and Sunday because we had record turn-outs on both days. Donations were generous and the sale of ornaments, wreaths, seasonal centerpieces, and other goodies was fantastic! This enabled our club to donate funds to the Altamont and Guilderland food pantries. Traditional music was played throughout the day. Santa also popped his head in to say ho, ho, ho! Visitors gathered in the dining room for refreshments and a brief chat. It was nice to hear how their visit helped to start the holiday season in such a cheerful way.

In January, the club members met for the annual luncheon at Tesoro's. Many members were in attendance. All winter preparations

at the Mynderse-Franklin and Schoolcraft Houses were discussed. Flower beds were prepared, benches, flower containers, and trellises were stored until spring. Our club is always looking for ways to contribute to our community. The Cornell Extension Passport Program has piqued the interest of some members. After a discussion, it was decided to gather more information and continue to investigate after the winter hiatus.

When our March meeting occurred after the winter break, members became involved with making bath salts and scrubs. The room became filled with a buzz of excitement with this hands-on activity. Everyone was glad to be back and welcome spring.

Boy, did we face an unwelcome surprise. Along with everyone else on our planet, our "normal" life came to a screeching halt! So, everyone here hopes that the curve continues to flatten and we get through this sooner than later. The best to all of you and get out there and garden!



Clockwise from above: The mistress of the Mynderse-Franklin House at the Holiday Greens Show; the wreath that greets; visitors to the Open House were greeted at the door with a festive stairway; Garden Club Scrub; there's always goodies to share at meeting's end.









HUGH PLAT GARDEN CLUB

SCHENECTADY COUNTY by MaryAnn DeFonce

For Hugh Plat Garden Club, January is the month we elect officers and set our yearly calendar of meetings and events. On January 15 we met at the home of club secretary Fran Scrafford. We spent some time critiquing our decorating efforts for the Schenectady County Historical Society's Festival of Trees this past December and our winter decorations at the Mabee Farm historic site in Rotterdam Junction. We also decided on a direction for these efforts in 2020. It is so challenging to work on two sites of different eras and design styles and yet keep a cohesive theme!

February and March are our two months of rest, and this year we have truly spent the time hibernating! The Novel Coronavirus has seen to that, and unfortunately, it is continuing into April. We are hoping that we can have our May meeting at the Gade Farm in Guilderland. That is a treat that we look forward to every spring, usually with a class lead by Gade's flower guru, Amy Castillo. In June we are planning a road trip to Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts to visit the Bridge of Flowers. It is an old trolley bridge that has been converted into captivating flower and shrubbery gardens. It is maintained by local garden clubs. July will be a luncheon in the beautiful gardens of our club president Sue Bushman. August will be another road trip to the Toadflax nursery in South Glens Falls.

In the meantime, until we can make it through these uncertain times, we are enjoying getting our hands dirty in our yards. There is no more enjoyable social distancing than spending time alone in your own garden!







THE GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Cynthia Bogardus

The Garden Club of Kinderhook, like many other local organizations, has put several events on hold for the next few weeks as the country battles the COVID-19 outbreak. Although the annual April luncheon welcoming the incoming President and Board of Directors for 2020/2021 has been canceled, the Club nominated and approved the new slate in January. Sue Sweet will serve as the new President, replacing Denise Hess. Through a series of emails, Club members thanked Denise for her outstanding service to the Club, in a time that saw many challenges and changes to long-standing traditions. Serving as Sue's board and officers will be Cynthia Bogardus, Carol Finkelstein, Jane Rose, Betsy Seeley, Geraldine Smith, and Roberta Smith. Also on hold is the flower show "Springtime in Paris", which was to be held in May. Although a final decision has yet to be made, it is likely that the event will be held at a future date. More than a year of planning has gone into the event, chaired by longtime members Renee Benenati, Carolyn Beveridge, and Pat Leary. This trio of ladies have a great deal of experience in organizing and staging successful flower shows. Details about rescheduling will be shared when available. For information on the status of upcoming meetings and events, contact sweet12106@ hotmail.com.





Hellebores: Harbinger of Spring

by Camille McComb, The Garden Club of Kinderhook

Hellebores are one of my favorite perennials. A garden club member planted these in her garden and I was in love with them immediately a few years ago. She graciously shared a white one with me. Blooming for over 8 weeks starting in early spring!





SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY by Deborah Stack

Whoever thought our lives would be put on hold? The COVID-19 pandemic has created new lifestyles for all of us and given us a 'new normal' to deal with. Everything is going virtual: meetings, school classrooms, worship, some office work, and even a Flower Show are all done through the computer. We live in an amazing age when technology can keep us connected. Who knew?

The Shawangunk Garden Club held a 'Welcome Back' Club Meeting on March 2, but since then has had to put our 2020 year on hold due to Federal and State mandates. Our Program Chairpersons Toni Gagan and Pat Kelly planned an amazing year of 'Herbal Happenings.' Our Yearbook was beautifully designed and full of incredible programs for our Club members and the public to enjoy. We anticipated an exciting presentation on Native American healing with herbs from a Hudson Valley

Native American Elder and her Women's Drum Group. POSTPONED. We were looking forward to a lovely gourmet Spring Luncheon held in a charming 18th-century brick farmhouse, now a catering venue. CANCELED. And the list of activities goes on – all canceled.

The Executive Committee decided to push back our 2020 program to 2021.

All of our activities, events, fundraisers, and social gatherings will now take place next year. We are in the process of contacting Club members, speakers, and venues to coordinate dates for 2021. We will still get to participate in our 'Herbal Happenings.' They will just be pushed back to the same time next year. Whenever President Trump and Governor Cuomo decide to open up the country and state for business as usual, we will then implement plans for informal Club Meetings and events for our

membership in whatever time is left to us in the remainder of 2020.

Some day soon the pandemic will be a bad memory. In the meantime, we gardeners find peace in our gardens. There is something therapeutic about digging in the dirt, smelling the aroma of beautiful flowers, and listening to the hum of bees. Our gardens have always been our sanctuaries, but they mean more to us now than ever before during this unsettling time.

I wish all Members of District III of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State to keep well, healthy and safe. We are all experiencing this pandemic together. Find solace in your gardens. Plant something. Enter a specimen or floral design in the 'Daffodil Surprise' Virtual Flower Show! Keep in touch with family, friends, and fellow Garden Club members. And may God bless you all.

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY by Gary Barrack

The Tioronda Garden Club held its first meeting of the New Year on March 11, 2020. After enjoying a covered dish dinner, our District Director Elizabeth Walker conducted the installation of officers for 2020-2022. New Yearbooks for 2020 were distributed. Our new president Carol DeMicco discussed the upcoming programs and events for 2020 and her leadership vision for the next two years. The club continues to explore new and innovative ways to communicate with the membership during the coronavirus pandemic. Our April meeting has been canceled, and we are hopeful to resume normal operations soon. The beauty of over 500 daffodils blooming at various locations throughout the city of Beacon provides peace and tranquility at a difficult time in our nation. They are a sign of new life and hope and a reminder of the vital work that Garden Clubs provide to our communities every day.

Top right: new officers for the Tioronda Garden Club. Left to Right: Gary Barrack, 2nd Vice President; Robert Haight, Treasurer; Catherine Cole, Recording Secretary; Geraldine Fuller, 1st Vice President; and Carol DeMicco, President. Not present: Joan Domenico, Corresponding Secretary.





Above: Daffodils in full bloom welcome Spring 2020 at the Beacon Patriots Garden. The garden is planted and maintained by the Tioronda Garden Club.

GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Carole Garvar, Chair

Athens Community Garden Club, Clematis Garden Club, Schoharie Valley Garden Club

At this time none of our clubs are meeting. Events have been canceled but Clematis plans to meet on July 10 if possible and Athens is planning a trip to Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate in Tarrytown on August 22. Schoharie Valley as not made any plans at this time. Spring cleaning our gardens is something we are all doing, but planting our community gardens won't be happening until restrictions are lifted. We all look forward to that time and seeing each other in the near future.

I returned from Florida at the end of March and like all of us have been sequestered ever since. This is a difficult time for all of us but there are things are happening that are so uplifting. In our community at Sleepy Hollow Lake in Athens, a garden club member was asked by her daughter, a nurse, to send scarves to be used as face masks as supplies were running low at her hospital. She went online and located a pattern to make masks. Six other members joined in and the movement grew to include others, including a relative downstate who made 70 masks for a local health facility. At this point family members, neighbors, people serving as food pantry volunteers, etc. have been supplied, as well as many others. When I arrived home, my husband and I had masks waiting for us and a good friend had brought in some groceries.

We can all do things to reach out to those people in need. Grocery shopping for people who can't leave their homes does not require

face-to-face contact. Items can be left on porches or stoops. Sharing hard to get items is generous and much appreciated. A telephone call to friends and relatives means so much, as the sound of a human voice is so comforting, and face timing is even better. Members who are former teachers can volunteer to tutor children online. Contact teachers in your neighborhood who are working online with their classes to see if any students require extra help. Of course, this would require permission from parents.

Here in Greene County, we have had approximately 80 cases of the virus so we are much more fortunate than those friends living in urban areas, but we must follow the guidelines of social distancing and wearing masks in public places. We are all grateful to those who work in the health field. These people are true heroes as are all public servants who are out there every day on the front lines. If ever there was a time to be proud of our country this is it. Americans who have followed the guidelines with social distancing and wearing face masks have kept this pandemic from being far worse than it is.

In the meantime, our District III Board held a teleconference meeting on April 2. The information regarding an upcoming flower show by submitting pictures of our gardens sounds like a great idea and it is something we can all share in. I hope to see all of you at our Fall District Luncheon.

Be safe, stay well, and keep your spirits up.



Daffodil Surprise: Awards Given

Below are all the awards given for the Third District virtual flower show that was held on April 13–22.

Best in Show: Horticulture—Carolyn Beveridge

Best in Show: Design—Lynne Arnold

DIVISION I: HORTICULTURE CLASSES

Section A: Narcissus Class 1. Doubles

Blue: Priscilla Johnson (Blue Creek): Narcissus 'Ice King'

Red: Carolyn Beveridge 90+ (Kinderhook): Narcissus 'Ice King' Yellow: Carolyn Beveridge (Kinderhook): Narcissus 'White Lion'

Class 2. Large Cup

Blue: Gary Barrack (Tioronda): Narcissus Red: Gary Barrack 90+ (Tioronda): Narcissus

Yellow: Lynne Arnold (Marlborough): Narcissus 'Forty Niner'

Class 3. Trumpet Cup

Blue: Carol DeMicco (Tioronda): Narcissus 'Dutch Master'

Red: Carolyn Beveridge 90+ (Kinderhook): Narcissus 'Mount Hood'

Yellow: Gary Barrack (Tioronda): Narcissus

Class 4. Small Cup

Blue: Lynne Arnold (Marlborough): Narcissus 'Barrett Browning'

Red: Lynne Arnold (Marlborough): Narcissus 'Decoy'

Yellow: Karin Janson (Germantown): Narcissus 'Red Devon'

Class 5. Any other worthy specimen

Split Corona (A)

Blue: Carolyn Beveridge (Kinderhook): Narcissus 'Congress'

Red: Carol DeMicco (Tioronda): Narcissus 'Sorbet'

Miniature: (B)

Blue: Carolyn Beveridge (Kinderhook): Narcissus 'Morton Fox.'

Best in Show for Horticulture

Red: Carol DeMicco (Tioronda): Narcissus 'Tete a Tete'

DIVISION II: DESIGN CLASSES

Section A: "Sweet Awakenings"

Class 1. Golden Dreams

Blue: Priscilla Johnson (Blue Creek)

Red: Dale Stafford-Bohan

Yellow: Carol DeMicco (Tioronda)

Class 2. Morning Magic

Blue: Lynne Arnold (Marlborough).

Best in Show for Design

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 kianson@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.



Lee Augustine: Daffodil Practicing Social Distancing.