

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



MAY 2022

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From the Board



It was gratifying to see so many of you in attendance our Annual Spring District meeting in April as we began our 2022 Garden Club year. Gathering once again as a District and seeing old friends and familiar faces after a two-and-a-half-year hiatus brought a sense of renewal and hope that garden clubs are back in business and ready to do the things we do best. Spring is the season of new life. And just as our gardens have once again come to life after a long winter, so too should we bring new life into our local garden clubs.

Our District Board members encourage clubs to get involved again in new and innovative programs, activities, community outreach, and civic beautification projects. Retaining and attracting new members are the lifeblood of our clubs. Assist your club president in establishing a goal to increase membership. Ask members to bring a friend to a meeting as a means of recruitment. Assign a mentor to new members; place them on a committee and get them involved in the day-to-day activities of the club. Most importantly, publicize all the good works that you do to serve and beautify your communities. Take pictures of your club's activities, issue press releases, and assign a publicity chair position to update your social media platforms and websites.

A renewed interest in gardening has taken place in recent years, and more so since the start of the pandemic. Please use this opportunity to revitalize and rebuild membership in your respective garden clubs.

On behalf of the Executive Board, thank you for your unfailing commitment and dedication in making our District one of the best in New York State. Keep up the good work that you do each day!

As you probably heard, the FGCNYS is holding its 97th Annual Meeting and Convention here in the beautiful Hudson Valley. Our New York State President Lynne Arnold, a longtime member of our District and the Community Garden Club of Marlborough, will host this event. The convention will be held at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel on June 12-14, 2022. Our past Director Beth Walker and I served on the planning committee to ensure the success of this convention. We encourage every club member to attend all or a part of the convention if possible. It is a relatively short drive from most of our club locations. Meet our National Garden Club President Mary Warshauer, who will address the convention on Monday. Vendors, guest speakers, and a chance to interact with garden club members from all over New York State will provide for a most rewarding experience. Optional garden tours at the Vanderbilt Estate; the Franklin D. Roosevelt Estate; Val-Kill, home to Eleanor Roosevelt following FDR's death in 1945; and a tour and lunch at The Culinary Institute of America are also included in this three-day event. The deadline for registration is fast approaching. For more information and registration forms, log on to fgcnys.com and click on the green "convention" tab on the top of the page, or contact your club president. We look forward to seeing you.

Gary Barrack
Corresponding Secretary

IN MEMORIAM

Joan Giordano



We are so very sorry to hear of the recent death of Joan Giordano. She was most recently the Assitant Treasurer of District III and she served as the District's World Gardening Chair. She loved gardening and had been a member of the Greenbush Garden Club for over 30 years. She held many positions in her club as well as in the Third District. She also volunteered her time at various duties for St. Michael's Church in Greenbush and spent many years volunteering at the Genet Elementary School in East Greenbush.

She will be very missed by all in her club and in the Third District by all who knew her and her volunteerism for supporting Garden Clubs.

District Meetings are Back!

by Kris Vogt, Second Assistant Director

Thank you to all who attended our Spring District Meeting on April 21. It was wonderful to see everyone after such a long hiatus. We were honored to have our own Lynne Arnold, FGCNYS State President in attendance. A special thank you to Tioronda Garden Club for coordinating the Ways and Means table and for providing three very nice items for our raffle table. I would also like to thank Guilderland and Shawangunk Garden Clubs for providing beautiful gifts filled with goodies for us to raffle. There were educational displays on “Rings of Hope,” “The Pinebush Preserve,” “Lyme Disease,” and “Xeriscape Gardening” from Guilderland and Germantown Garden Clubs. Our presenter, Michele Peters of Ambiance Floral and Events, created a wide variety of beautiful arrangements that everyone had an opportunity to enjoy. I know that I learned several new techniques that are easy to do but create a dramatic affect for display. In addition to all of the above, we had four talented vendors with beautiful hand crafted items for sale. I truly hope that everyone enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie of being together again.

For those of you who missed our spring meeting, please consider attending our Fall District Meeting on October 20 at the Kingston Best Western Plus. It promises to be another fun, enlightening day. Cindy Teator, our First Assistant Director, has engaged Lori Adams,

a professional photographer from Hopewell Junction, to present “Photographing Nature.” We will also be presenting District and State Awards, including Yearbook Awards.

The Ways and Means and Raffle tables are both used to raise money that helps cover the cost of our District meetings. It is always fun to see what bargains you can find at the Ways and Means table. Marie Muller is the chairperson for our Ways and Means committee and Merrill-Lee Lenegar is the chairperson for Raffles. We did fairly well at our spring meeting raising \$126 from Ways and Means sales and \$290 from our raffle table.

At our Fall District meeting the Ways and Means table will be coordinated by the Ulster County Garden Clubs. Please remember items should be clean and gently used, no clothes, and priced at home prior to the meeting. Any items not sold need to be retrieved by the provider and taken back home at the end of the day. The Raffle table will be covered by the Columbia County Garden Clubs, currently that is the Germantown Garden Club. I encourage any other club or Board member who would like to provide a gift basket or item for raffle to do so. The more items we have, the more fun the raffle becomes.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Fall District meeting. Enjoy your summer and happy gardening!



Left: Glad to present with former District Director Beth Walker.

Right: Michele Peters created a plethora of beautiful arrangements.

Blue Star Memorial Marker Program

by Gary Barrack, District Blue Star Chairman

The Blue Star Memorial Marker Program of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. began in 1945 to honor the men and women serving in the Armed Forces during World War II. The name was chosen for the star on flags displayed in homes and businesses denoting a family member serving. Garden clubs pictured a ribbon of living memorial plantings traversing every state. The Blue Star Memorial Program grew to extend thousands of miles across continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii. All men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States are included. There are 91 markers located in New York State and 3,085 nationwide.

The procedure for a club desiring to sponsor a marker involves the following:

- A garden club votes to have a marker. An appropriate location is selected and type of marker for that location is chosen.
- Contact me or the New York State Blue Star Memorial Chairman for forms and instructions.
- Contact local or state authority responsible for the location.
- Send your order form and check to NGC Chairman for processing

Clubs may solicit other civic organizations for help with funding, construction, planting and maintenance. Current prices are \$1,590 for the large highway marker, and \$525 for by-way markers. The price includes shipping.

The most recent Memorial Marker placed in our District was sponsored by the Tioronda Garden Club on Armed Forces Day, 2019. The entire process took around eight months, from conception to dedication. For example, if you wish to have a marker dedicated on Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, or Armed Forces Day, select the day and start the process approximately eight months prior. If you are interested in sponsoring a marker, or need additional information, please contact me and I will assist you throughout the process. You will be amazed how quickly club members and community leaders respond to supporting such an endeavor. My club reached its goal in less than two weeks. The publicity surrounding the dedication ceremony is priceless in terms of honoring our Armed Forces, and club recognition with your club's name forever enscorced on these beautiful markers.

YEARBOOK CONTEST



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

Please send one copy of your Yearbook to me by June 1, 2022 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



Top left: Rev. Richard Smith giving the invocation at the Blue Star Memorial Ceremony. To his left is former Beacon Mayor Randy Casale and former District Director Gary Barrack.

Top right: Past State President Monica Hansen with Gary Barrack at the newly dedicated Blue Star Memorial Marker.

Left: Members of the VFW and American Legion form the color guard for the event.



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, Country Garden Club of Clifton Park, Hugh Plat

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

GARDEN THERAPY IS HOT!

by Patricia Blundell, Garden Therapy Chairman



Garden Therapy Programs are right up there at the top of the list of programs for our members to share their love of gardening.

With Spring in the air, it's the perfect time to plan for Programs at Nursing Homes, Rehabilitation Centers, and Senior Housing Complexes. Each location may have specific requirements which will aid clubs in planning programs. Programs selected would utilize the expertise of the club members and the needs of the recipients.

Several of our District clubs have been successfully involved in Garden Therapy activities for years. Now with the Pandemic requirements easing, this activity can be resumed.

Sharing your time, talent and love of gardening brings happiness to all who attend your programs!

Speaking of sharing, this Chairman would like to hear from you if you would like suggestions; also it would be appreciated if clubs would share their Garden Therapy activities with me.

Please email me here: floralartistry01@hvc.rr.com

World Gardening

by Marie Celeste, Treasurer

I am taking over Joan Giordano's, Assistant Treasurer position, who recently passed away. She is greatly missed and has been a steadfast leader for our District's World Gardening donations. Please send your World Gardening checks and mark on your check either Water for Sudan or Dig Deep projects, and send your checks payable to FGCNYS Inc, World Gardening

Mail to Marie Celeste, 39 Donegal Ave Troy, NY 12180



GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

The Germantown Garden Club had its first meeting of the year in the Hover Room at the Germantown Library. Returning members were welcomed. On the agenda was an overview of the budget and the program for 2022. The theme for 2022 is “Get Creative With Your Garden.”

In 2022, we will explore using plants to create dyes and inks, medicinal plants native to the area, horticulture as therapy, the connections between botanicals and the written word, and preserving that special flower you lovingly tended. We’ll also learn about experimenting with different types of gardens, how to incorporate containers in the garden to express one’s creative side, and how to photograph nature. The club will also continue their annual events. This includes the plant sale, decorating for high school commencement ceremonies, the flower show, and the Christmas Market.

Three new members were welcomed as well, and added to the members’ roster. They are Pat Byron from Hudson, Joanne Wiedemann from Milan and Celeste Flahaven from Germantown. The club also has members as far away as Hollowville and Kinderhook.

At the club’s April meeting, Linda Levitt, Master Gardener with the Columbia/Greene Cooperative Extension, gave a presentation titled “Get Creative with Containers.” Linda gave a refresher on how to plant a container, what plants are suitable and where to place containers for a creative effect. This unique presentation interested all present and every one found it useful. The presentation has encouraged many to plant new containers for this coming season.

We held a Spring-Clean-up on April 23rd in coordination with community members and students from the local high school at the historical site First Reformed Church Parsonage in Germantown. The event was to celebrate Earth Day. Much was accomplished in the two hour time frame. Brush, downed limbs were cleared, and invasive bushes removed. The fenced garden and door yard garden and other garden areas were weeded and mulched. The grounds of the Parsonage are ready to reemerge from the winter and blossom once again

The club held its annual plant sale on May 14. Members brought houseplants and seedlings, as we are not digging up perennials in our gardens due to the Jumping Worm invasion. We also included a Bake Sale and a Tag Sale. The sale is a major fund raiser for the club with proceeds going to help fund various local environmental organizations such as the Columbia Land Conservancy, The River Keeper, New York State Garden Club’s

World Gardening Project, support for the Germantown Library, and the annual scholarship for a Germantown High School Student pursuing a career in the environmental sciences.

At our May meeting acclaimed nature artist Brece Honeycutt presented a program connecting the art of well-known artists and their focus on nature and the world around them. Brece is an artist that makes nature-based and history-based drawings, sculptures, and installations. Her program traced artists through the past two centuries and how plants acted as inspiration for these historic artists and their connection to nature using different artistic mediums such as the written word, and two or three dimensional works. Brece Honeycutt has a current exhibit in our county in Chatham at the Joyce Goldstein Gallery.

The club also welcomed Columbia County Master Gardener Linda Levitt as the newest member.



We held our Annual Plant Sale on May 14 at the Palatine Park Pavillion. There were annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, and houseplants on offer. Some of the plants were donated by members. The others came from a local nursery.

GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by John Haluska

We would like to welcome four new members who are Joan McKeon, Julia Woodard, Terrianne Hoffman-Allen, and Lynne Buchanon. The members enjoyed a meeting at the Guilderland Town Hall on April 11.

The meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Amanda Boccio who is a chiropractor at the Sports and Spinal Wellness Center. The theme of her presentation was “More Gardening, Less Pain.”

Dr. Boccio stressed lifting with your legs, but first of all doing exercises to “loosen up” before gardening. Stretching, as well as shoulder rotation, was emphasized.

On April 25, several of us cleaned up the Mynderse-Frederick flower beds. It was decided to add another walkway through the garden. John Haluska will do this project.

Our meeting on May 9 was about Peonies and was presented by Kris Vogt, Master Gardener and Guilderland Garden Club Member.

We welcomed Beth Walker, Past Director of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc—District III and currently Second VP of the FGCNYS, Inc., to MC our installation of officers for 2022-23 that took place at the Guilderland Town Hall on March 14.



Above: Clean up at the Mynderse-Frederick House.



Left: Our new officers for 2022.

COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB OF MARLBOROUGH ON HUDSON

ULSTER COUNTY

by Jean Dinapoli

The Community Garden Club of Marlborough on Hudson celebrated 100 years of beautifying the area with a luncheon at Pamela's on Hudson in Newburgh on April 6th. The celebration was included with the installation of new officers. Photo albums were on display and there was discussion of past accomplishments including the planting of forsythia along Route 9W from Newburgh to Highland by the members in 1932! These forsythia plants are still evident today!





Greenbush Garden Club

BIRDING 101

with Master Gardener, Teresa Murphy

Tuesday, June 7

Meeting begins at 6:00pm

Presentation at 6:15pm



Register at events.eglibrary.org

or at the circulation desk

This is a library sponsored program

NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Margaret McDowell

We started our 2022 Season with a successful pot luck in March to welcome back our members. We also had a local climate activist speak about what is happening in our community, particularly in regard to the state-wide pollinator trail and community composting. In April, we participated in Earth Day with distributing local seeds to plant this year.

For May, we went on a field trip to a local garden to see spring flowers.

We held our Spring Plant sale on May 14. Members donated houseplants, perennial cuttings, and garden items to sell. All members were asked to help out, so that our sale could be successful.

Our May 23 meeting will feature an animal rehabilitator, Annie Mardiney from Wild Mountain Birds. For June we will visit another local garden and participate in a Tea Party. We often plan on spontaneous Garden Tours throughout the summer in addition to a pool party. We enjoy keeping all our members connected. Happy Spring and enjoy your gardens.

SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTY

by Agnes Ripoli

Schoharie Valley club activities for the year include our 75th Year anniversary celebration that will be held on June 1 at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown. Festivities will include a buffet lunch and speaker.

Our club is looking forward to a “Sogetsu Ikebana” workshop on September 7 with Ellen Rook of the Capital District Sogetsu Study Group.

We will participate in the Schoharie Village annual yard sale in September which is our major fundraiser.

We will be holding our annual Christmas luncheon on December 7 at the Sablewood in Schoharie.

We are exploring new opportunities for public plantings including the Middleburgh Art Park and a spot or plot at the Schoharie Lily Park.



Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community

Join NGC clubs across the country and celebrate National Garden Week, June 7-13, 2022. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

From the amateur to the master gardener, celebrations, workshops and educational events swing into high gear during National Gardening Week. Gardens provide fresh fruits and vegetables, beautify neighborhoods and communities and provide social and physical activities throughout the year.

HOW TO OBSERVE

Visit your local library, county extension service, or check local listings for events near you. Visit gardenclub.org for more information on how to get involved. Use #NationalGardenWeek to share on social media.

GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Carole Garvar, Chair

SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

17 members.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at The Gathering Place Community Center, 127 Kenyon Road, Cobleskill, N.Y. Guests are welcome to attend.

President: Sue Grupinski 518-827-7014, email: wings@midtel.net

Yearbook will be issued in May

The club's 75th Anniversary will be celebrated on June 1st at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown.

Flower baskets will be donated for the gazebo in Middleburg's Art Park.

Schoharie Garden Club will occupy a space to do a planting in Lilly Park.

Will take part in the Schoharie town wide yard sale.

Will be having the Annual Christmas Luncheon.

Residential Garden of the Month Awards are given.

CLEMATIS GARDEN CLUB

Founded in 1940, 37 members.

President Terry Buel: 518-424-9000, email mountainview@verizon.net

Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the American Legion Post 291, 54 Maple Ave. in Greenville, N.Y. Guests are welcome to attend

May 20: The Annual Spring Social featuring speaker Perter Bowden of Hewitt Nurseries. His program will discuss climate change, its effect on the Albany area, plants, new techniques and products to make gardening more of a joy.

June 4: The club's major fund raiser will be held at The GNH Plaza in Greenville. Plant Sale and White Elephant Sale of Collectables and Antiques. This event is not to be missed.

June 17: Everything's Coming up Roses: Speaker Abbey Block Cash. Master Gardener will speak on creating a rose garden

July 15: A trip to the Bronck Museum in Coxsackie

August 19: Annual Picnic at Riverside Park in Coxsackie

ATHENS COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB

50 members

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Zion Lutheran Church, 102 North Washington Street, Athens, N.Y. Guests are welcome to attend.

Acting President: Laura Erwig, 518-444-8279, email:

Lamke1216@aol.com

Flower plantings: at Village North and South entrances; Veterans Memorial Triangle, Athens Post Office, and the Softball field.

Youth projects: Education Program grades K thru grade 4 at E.J Arthur Elementary School on seed growth and development and recycling.

The club will continue to sponsor a poetry contest for these students. Each student will receive a prize for participation and a first prize will be awarded to each class.

Annual Landscape and Garden Recognition of three residents of Athens are awarded a prize for beautification of their neighborhoods.

Donation to Penny Pines for reforestation.

May 19: "Techniques of Floral Design" by Douglas Koch, renowned floral designer and holiday decorator of N.Y.C. Department stores.

June 16: Trip to Pine Bush Preserve

July: Installation of officers

August 18: Trip to Pine Hollow Arboretum Slingerlands

Member Kathy Jackson wrote a very informative article on Monarch Butterflies printed in the club's yearbook. Unfortunately, the population of them on the east coast has declined by 80% over the past two decades. The club donated milkweed seeds to E.J. Arthur school for their garden.

Milkweed seeds can be obtained from saveourmonarchs.org to request seeds for free.

The Holiday Luncheon and Auction will be held on November 17 at Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie. This is the clubs annual fund raiser and a very popular event. All District clubs are invited to attend.

Clubs' Calendar 2022

June 7, 2022

Greenbush Garden Club: Birding 101
East Greenbush Community Library

June 12–16, 2022

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

September 10–11, 2022

Germantown Garden Club Flower Show
Kellner Activity Building
Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY

October 20, 2022

District III Fall Meeting
Best Western Plus
503 Washington Avenue, Kingston, NY

November 14, 2022

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

New Book by Former Director

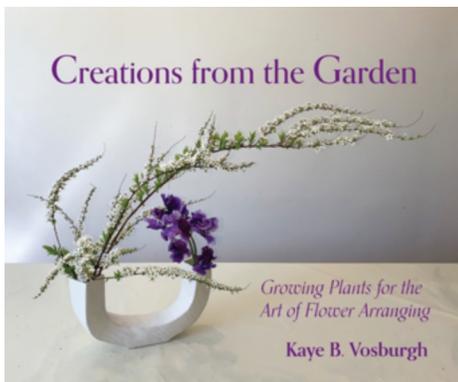
by Kaye Vosburgh

Hello Third District members. I was the Director there in the late 90's. Now I live in Boston, MA. These past two years, while staying at home, I wrote a book with the help of my daughter, who had some experience in publishing. My husband and I became quite focused on our garden since that was as wide as our world has been recently. He is the gardener and I am a flower arranger. As a Judge in NGC and an Ikebana (Japanese Flower Arrangement) teacher, I created lots of arrangements using

branches from our shrubs and trees and flowers delivered with our food from the grocery store.

The result was *Creations from the Garden—Growing Plants for the Art of Flower Arranging*.

The book is available at the Open Door Bookstore on Jay Street in Schenectady. You can see more details on my website createwithflowers.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.

