

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



NOVEMBER 2016

CONTENTS

The History of Wine Making	3
Looking Backward and Ahead in the Garden	4
Poetry Contest	5
In Our Clubs	6
Fall District Meeting Highlights	12
Awards	13
Raising My Hand to Help	14
Thank You from FGCNYS	16
Club Calendar	17

Editor's Note

This past year I finally designed and planted my dream garden. Have you ever heard of a Moon Garden? I have desired one ever since I read Barbara Damrosch's book *Themed Gardens*. A moon garden consists of white flowers and variegated foliage plants which create a 'glow' effect when viewed at twilight. I can't tell you how much I wanted to have this moon garden. Many things stood in my way. First was my garden soil. I have clay in all of my beds. So for my birthday this year, I asked my husband to give me the best present a gardener would want—top soil and mulch. The other present I asked for was to get rid of all the invasive plants and weeds that had made my gardens just horrible to deal with. So I started fresh in all my garden beds. I am now learning how much I didn't know about how sunlight affects plants. I can say now say how foolish I was in planting perennials that I thought were for shade, like astilbes, that were getting full afternoon sun. I never paid attention before, but now that I have new plants in my gardens, I am more aware of their locations. Indeed, I have replanted many of my new additions, moving them to where they get the correct light. My moon garden is beautiful and the culmination of what I have dreamt about doing. What stood in my way was change. I needed to completely rethink all of my garden beds and start fresh. So here is to a fresh start in the garden!

From the Director



Hello to everyone!

It's November, where did the summer go? My perennial garden has continued to provide blooms much to my surprise, and I'll savor every one of them. The changing leaves are still on the trees, my husband and I couldn't believe how many there are. It's awesome to wake up, look out the window, and see the brilliant hues of red, yellow, and orange.

Since the August issue of this newsletter, my calendar has been filled with wonderful activities, both personal and as a director. I hope you have been blessed to enjoy good health and fun activities. Life goes by so quickly when we have more birthdays, which I'm very glad to have! I have memories of yummy birthday cake and ice cream, my favorite supper, lots of cousins for my party and one who shared the same day—my mother always made sure I had a very special day—thanks Mom.

And that is where I'm heading with this. Making memories, working together so the task at hand is not so overwhelming, sharing your expertise with new members, inviting others to join your clubs, and saying thank you. My term is almost up and I've met the best people on earth—all of YOU! This includes garden club members with fabulous ideas and endless energy, and welcoming me to your meetings, luncheons, flower shows, and holiday events. As Third District Director, I could not ask for more, keep up the great work and continue to build the team.

(cont. on pg. 2)



As Favors Chair for the NGC-CAR Conference, I worked with Merril-Lee Lenegar and Kris Vogt from the Guilderland Garden Club to create boutonnieres and a hat. The theme was Let's Go to the Races as the conference was held in Saratoga.

(from pg. 1)

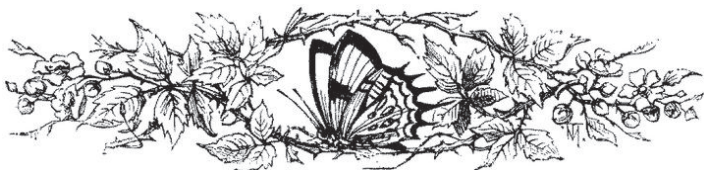
Here are some highlights from events that I have attended.

The Garden Study Club of Albany held an informal Flower Show, entitled Summer Around the World on July 25, 2016 at the The Beverwyck in Slingerlands. Business meeting was held first and then was followed by refreshments and socializing. Residents were invited to attend the show, sign in to win a floral design, and enjoy the sweet treats. It was a delightful idea of giving back to the community!

On August 25, I attended the Greene-Schoharie County Day event at Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie. Sylvia Hasenkopf spoke on The History of Wine Making in the Hudson River Valley. A collection was taken to support World Gardening with \$400 raised. Carole Garvar created a poster display on Water for South Sudan with informational handouts. This display was set up for all to enjoy. It was also on display at the 2016 NGC-CAR Conference and Symposium. WOOHOO to Carole Garvar!

In September, I attended the FGCNYS Fall Conference and Meeting, in Utica, NY—Linking Together To Inspire Our Future. Guest speaker, Cathy Miller—who is an avid gardener, lecturer, and writer for dozens of national magazines, has appeared on TV shows, and has received many blue ribbons including the coveted Tricolor and Creativity awards—was the speaker. She believes her greatest accomplishment was creating 54 dried garden flower arrangements for the White House! The ten directors convened after lunch to review the 2017–2019 list of nominees, and then we voted and prepared a slate of officers. This was accomplished in a RECORD time of less than two hours!

For me, this journey has been one of excitement, laughter, creativity, travel, homemade cookies, punch, stories, planning, lost receipts, and asking for assistance. Thank you for the opportunity to participate. You are building a great team!



CLUBS IN 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

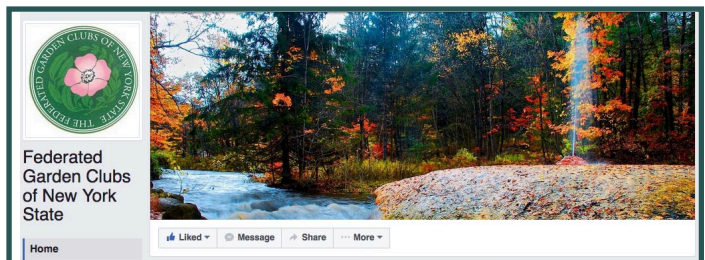
Dutchess: Tioronda

Greene-Schoharie: Athens, Clematis, 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



CHECK OUT THE FGCNYS FACEBOOK PAGE!

Please like and share.

www.facebook.com/Federated-Garden-Clubs-of-New-York-State-1092274147457474/



GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTY DAY

August 25, 2016

The History of Wine Making in the Hudson River Valley

by Carole Garvar, Greene-Schoharie County Chair

Sylvia Hasenkopf, historian, genealogist, author, and speaker presented a program, The History of Wine Making in The Hudson River Valley to 60 garden club members and friends on August 25 at Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie. She spoke on the origins of wine from Europe and the start of production in New York in the 1800's. The Hudson Valley was an ideal area with its sloping landscape along the river and several local sites were noted including the Fitch Grapery and the Beatty Powers property.

Before the 1800's, this country had only wild grapes growing, unsuitable for wine production. At that time in history, only the wealthy were privileged to drink wine available from vineyards in Europe. Wealthy landowners brought clippings from grapevines in Europe and began to experiment with the growing of grapes. Initially, they grew only table grapes. Soon it was discovered that the Hudson River Valley was ideal in many ways for growing wine grapes. More landowners established vineyards and began to experiment with wine production. The result is that we have a thriving industry in our area and throughout New York State. Did you know that our state is the fourth largest wine producer in the country? Not only that but our wines have garnered many awards in Europe.

This event was sponsored by the Greene-Schoharie County Garden Clubs and was supported by generous gifts from local businesses given as door prizes. Some of the donations included were gift certificates for a wine tasting from Hudson-Chatham Winery and a spirit tasting and tour from Hudson Valley Distillers. Harvest Spirits donated a bottle of Core vodka, The Wine Cellar in Catskill donated a bottle of Hudson River Red, The Cork and Bottle Store in Coxsackie donated a bottle of New York State rosé. Other donations included the books *Grapes of the Hudson Valley* by author Steve Casscels, and *Tracing Your Roots in Greene County* by our speaker, Sylvia Hasenkoph.

We decided not to run this as a traditional fund-raiser but instead, as an opportunity to meet with other club members and guests. The only cost to those attending was the price of the luncheon. All other expenses came from our county fund from monies raised over the years by our county clubs. We receive no other support and in the past, each club has used some of the money raised to benefit their communities with a project not covered by their budget. This was done to remind communities that we are service organizations. This year a decision was reached to support World Gardening.

A donation to World Gardening was requested from the Athens Community Garden Club, Clematis Garden Club, and Schoharie Valley Garden Club (who comprise Greene-Schoharie County Clubs) in support of Water for South Sudan, Drilling Wells, and Transforming Lives. I had a trifold poster display with information on this and included a bucket labeled Put a Drop in the Bucket for donations. I also gave a short presentation on how garden clubs are service organizations, why FGCNYS supports World Gardening, and what our support has accomplished. We collected \$174 and added \$206 from our county funds for a total of \$400 sent to world gardening. This worthwhile project has completed 223 wells providing fresh water to tens of thousands of people. Diseases have been eradicated, children can attend schools, and small businesses and markets have become possible. Where water is safe, life can blossom.

I hope that other clubs can use some of this information to present programs like this. Many of the local vineyards provide tours and recently Schoharie valley visited one in their area.



Sylvia Hasenkopf speaks to garden club members and guests about the history of wine making.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA: THE 2017 VISION OF BEAUTY DESK CALENDAR

by Diane Madden

The 2017 Vision of Beauty flower arrangement and engagement calendar created by National Garden Clubs is now available for purchase. It includes full-page color photos of many award-winning designs. The size of 5-1/2" by 8-1/2" is perfect for keeping track of weekly engagements or just jotting down what's growing in your garden. You will also find it to be a resource of flower design inspiration.

We are not ordering 2017 Vision of Beauty Calendars for the Third District this year. Those of you who would still like to purchase one can order them directly on the National Garden Clubs web site www.gardenclub.org. Click on MENU in the upper right hand corner and then on the last item on the list ON LINE SHOPPING.

If you prefer to order by phone, call NGC at 800-550-6007 or 314-776-7574. The price for one single calendar is \$6.75 (That includes shipping.) If you order 2 or more the cost is \$5 each.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Looking Backward and Ahead in the Garden

by Maryann Weber, District III Landscape Design Chair

Now that the growing season is over and the physical aspects of gardening are diminished, if not altogether eliminated, until spring, it's a good time to look both backward and ahead.

Have you kept a journal? They can be very useful for reviewing what happened in the course of a season, especially if you've been doing a lot of planting. If you don't have a journal, try your hand at writing a summary: what went well, what didn't, how your garden fared in this summer's long dry spell. Which plants barely made it through the season? Which disappeared altogether? Which had one of their best years ever? Were there pest or disease problems? If so, how did you deal with them?

A really helpful tool when it comes to looking ahead is a site plan. If you don't already have one of these, now, when the leaves are off deciduous trees and shrubs and smaller plants have either been put to bed for the winter or pulled out, would be a good time to make one. You'll get your clearest view of the year of the basic structure or "bones" of your garden.

Features of your property don't have to be measured precisely. Roughly sketch in buildings and any dedicated areas such as a swimming pool or playground. Indicate the placement, size and spread of trees and large shrubs. Show driveway, paths and walkways. Indicate (arrows work well) the direction of the prevailing wind and areas in which the soil tends to be unusually dry or wet.

This sort of basic map will often help you to see the overall structure of your garden in a way that you can't by walking through it. If a feature doesn't work, consider removing it. If a line is too short or too long or too ragged, contemplate how you can correct that. Is there something you've wanted to add? Your site plan will help you find its best location.

By keeping in mind what worked—and didn't—this last year and developing ideas for positive changes you can treat yourself to an enjoyable winter of armchair gardening.



Poetry Contest 2017: Bees, Bugs, and Butterflies

by Barbara Millington, FGCNYS Youth Chairman

Here is a great way to get young people interested in gardening. Encourage students to express their thoughts through different types of poetry. Let them use their imagination and enjoy seeing the winning poets' work published in a printed booklet to be presented in the fall. This year's theme is Bees, Bugs, and Butterflies.

Last time I received some very nice poems, but they were rejected because the theme was not followed. Also, both first and last names must be included. Remember to put the name, age, grade, school, and sponsoring club on the BACK of each poem. It would be helpful if you gave me one name to contact if I have questions. Looking forward to receiving lots of poems again!

Eligibility

Open to all youth, pre-school through high school.

Contest Rules

Judging will be done according to age/grade categories.

- All entries must be typed and titled following the theme.
- Include first and last name, address, age, grade, and school of participation on the back of poem.
- The sponsoring garden club must be identified.
- All entries become the property of FGCNYS, Inc.

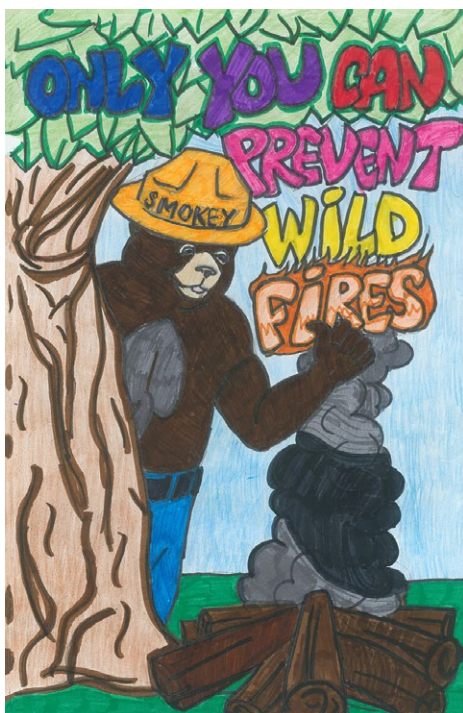
- Poems do not have to rhyme.
- Poems may be traditional verse, acrostic, blank verse, cinquain, diamond poems, limerick, or haiku.

Scale of Points

Title: 10%
Creativity: 30%
Content: 40%
Style: 20%

Deadline: March 30, 2017

Send to: Barbara Millington, State Youth Chairman
546 County Rt. 76, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
bmillington@nycap.rr.com



National Youth Contest Deadlines

by Barbara Millington, FGCNYS Youth Chairman

The following are the deadlines for the National Youth Contests:

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest (grades 1–5): January 15, 2017

Youth Sculpture Contest (grades 4–8): January 15, 2017

High School Essay Contest (grades 9–12): January 15, 2017

All contests are on the national website under youth contest. Here's a link to take you directly to the National info:

<http://gardenclub.org/youth/youth-contests.aspx>

I realize they have Jan. 20th as the deadline for the poster contest but I needed to make it earlier. We will be away on vacation starting on the 18th.

Looking forward to seeing many entries!

One of the 2016 poster winners was this entry from third grader Aniyah Purifory, sponsored by the Aldersgate Garden Club, Cleveland, Tennessee

GARDEN STUDY CLUB OF ALBANY

ALBANY COUNTY

by Ronnie Blendell

We celebrated our club's 85th Anniversary on June 27 at the Pine Hollow Arboretum in Slingerlands. The Garden Study Club of Albany was founded in 1931 by a small but dedicated group of local women. In celebration of our anniversary, we enjoyed a light lunch and refreshments. To commemorate this milestone, our club donated a bench and plaque to the Pine Hollow Arboretum.

Our member/guest luncheon was held at the Albany Country Club on September 28. The table centerpieces were made by member Kathy Kotlow and her committee and raffled to our members and guests. Our presenter was David Siders, with help from Rudy Grant, co-owners of Experience & Creative Design in Schenectady,

NY. Their floral designs have been adorned in numerous hotels and businesses, weddings, and events. They won Best In Show at the Philadelphia Flower Show in 2014.

Several of our members will be decorating at the Ronald McDonald House to benefit families who use the services there. Also, members will decorate the Ten Broeck Mansion in Albany, to benefit the community as well as the visiting public. We do this as a club to show our interest in preserving buildings of architectural importance. Visit the website www.tenbroeckmansion.org for viewing days and hours.



Our Member/Guest Luncheon was held at the Albany County Club.



Member Kathy Kotlow and her committee created beautiful centerpieces for each table.



Presenter David Siders, with help from Rudy Grant, co-owners of Experience & Creative Design, created amazing floral designs at the luncheon.



GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

In preparation for the Germantown Garden Club's annual flower show in September, the club at its August meeting held a program called Designing Arrangements for Flower Shows. Master Flower Show Judge, Lynne Arnold demonstrated, discussed, and answered questions about various design classes. The demonstration included reflective, traditional, creative line, and bistro table designs. Lynne also discussed the many rules that go into submitting a design and gave hints as to what a judge would be looking for in order to be able to award a possible blue ribbon.



Pictured; Lynne Arnold, master flower show judge.

On September 17 and 18, we held our Flower Show titled An Apple a Day. This year's annual flower show was held in conjunction with the Germantown Lion's Club Apple Festival. This Standard Flower Show consisted of six design classes with four designs in each for a total of 24, two educational exhibits, a photography exhibit with six entries and this year a total of 146 horticulture entries.



In the Design Division member Elke Crane was awarded the Designer's Choice Award and the Design Excellence Award for her arrangement in the reflective design class. She also won the People's Choice award. The Tri-Color award was given to Linda Saulpaugh who also won the Design Sweepstakes Award.

Left: Germantown Garden Club member Elke Crane with her awards.

In the Horticulture Division Fran Bufi was awarded the Grower's Choice Award and the Horticulture Excellence Award for her container entry of a Mandevilla. Five Awards of Merit were given: Fran Bufi, Jane Dooley, Mary Puskar, Irene Clum, and Mattie Gifford. The Horticulture Sweepstakes Award went to Mimi Brauch.

Germantown Garden Club wins National Award

Each year the Germantown Garden Club prepares programs and activities that inform and educate the public about gardening and environmental topics that are of importance to our communities and everyday lives. This is part of the club's mission. Included in these are to provide education and resources and to promote the love of gardening. To this end and to share these goals, club meetings are always open to the public.

At the annual Fall Meeting of the Third District, held at Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, the Germantown Garden Club received the following awards in recognition of those efforts.

District III Citations: Publications: Newsletter; 2016 Standard Flower Show 'An Apple A Day;' 2016 Flower Show Schedule 'An Apple A Day;' First Place: 2016 Year Book, 'Make Every Day Earth Day.' From the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. we received a Club Recognition Award for 2016. From the Central Atlantic Region we received a First Place: Publicity/Press Book. And from National Garden Clubs, Inc.: a Certificate of Appreciation for award participation, and a Certificate for Home Standard Flower Show Achievement Award for our 2015 Flower Show 'The Romance of the Garden.'



Pictured; Members (left to right) Irene Clum, Fran Bufi, Joyce Vale, and Karin Janson holding up the awards the club received at the recent Fall District Meeting.

GREENBUSH GARDEN CLUB

RENSELAER COUNTY

by Diane Madden

At the club's meeting on September 6, certified arborist Clarence Fountain presented a program on Tree Identification, Problems and Solutions. He brought many examples of how trees are damaged and how they are able to heal themselves. On October 4, chef Rob Handel of Bee's Knees Café—located on the grounds of Heather Ridge Farm—gave a program on 'Rethinking Wild Edibles.' The presentation was totally awesome and he brought samples of the recipes he created using wild and native plants, aka weeds. (So now we know what to do with all that pesky garlic mustard.) The fee was a bit more expensive than usual for our little club, but it was definitely worth it. On November 1, Denise Maurer, Rensselaer County Master Gardener and interior designer, gave a presentation on Houseplants You Can Live With. The club plans to clean up the gardens and plant spring bulbs at the American Legion and at Fort Crailo and prepare an information/membership table for Becker's Farm Holiday Faire on December 3.

GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Merrill-Lee Lenegar

The dates have been set for the 2016 Open House and Greens Show at the Mynderse-Frederick House at 451 Main Street, Route 146, in Guilderland Center. Co-sponsored by the Guilderland Garden Club and the Guilderland Historical Society, the show will take place on December 2 from 4–8 p.m. and on December 3 and 4 from 1–5 p.m. The theme this year is O Christmas Tree! The public is invited to this free festive community event to see the house decorated with ornaments and wreaths, arrangements made by members of the Garden Club, and to enjoy homemade refreshments and entertainment. Members of the Historical Society will also be present to provide information on the history of the house. Nonperishable donations will be collected for the regional food bank. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of items made by the club will be donated to a community organization.

SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Anne Bielawski

On November 17–19 our will club hold a Flower Show 'Decorating Through the Seasons' at the Schoharie Library located at the corner of Bridge St. and Knower Ave. in Schoharie. Our local library is actually a beautiful Victorian home, so there are many rooms; therefore, each member makes an arrangement for a particular room. We have a member or two at the show at all times, offering information, cookies, and punch. It is really a nice event that we look forward to each year. We mainly advertise by word of mouth, flyers we put around town, and in the local paper. All the arrangements must be made with fresh flowers or dried plant material. The show is free and refreshments will be served.

On Wednesday, December 7, our club will have our annual holiday luncheon and boutique. This year our theme is A Brush with Santa and it will be held at the Quality Inn & Suites in Schoharie from noon to 4 p.m. The cost to attend is \$25.

And then we take a break during January and February.

Happy Fall!



An arrangement from last year's flower show All Things Great and Small. The show is held at the Schoharie Library.

HUGH PLAT GARDEN CLUB

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

by *Mary Ann DeFonce*

This September the Hugh Plat Garden Club decorated the exterior of the Schenectady County Historical Building for its Candlelight Tours, running Friday evenings through October. We solicited donations from local garden centers and other vendors. Hand-made wreaths were hung on the front and back doors and the front porch sprung to life with mums and pumpkins. Decorating this historical building for the fall season and for the Festival of Trees in late November through early December are two of our favorite yearly events.

Our October 21 meeting was held at the home of our secretary, Fran Scrafford. We had a hands-on workshop making small fall flower arrangements, guided and assessed by master judge and Hugh Plat Garden Club member Norma Maughan. We also brainstormed ideas for this year's Festival of Trees.

November meetings include a workshop at the home of President Sue Bushman, and then on November 18 the club will be decorating the Schenectady County Historical Building for the Festival of Trees. Last year's theme, Visions of Sugarplums was a feast for the eyes. Our inspiration came from a magazine display of a kitchen hutch containing apothecary jars filled with old fashioned Christmas candies. This year's theme is Old Silver and Snow. Just imagine the possibilities!

Our December 16 meeting and holiday luncheon will be held this year at the Stockade Inn in Schenectady.



Left: our decorations this September for SCHS building front porch. Top: Close up of the wreath on the front door. Middle: wreath for the back door. Bottom: last year's festival of trees display.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Sue Chiafullos

Members of the Garden Club of Kinderhook took a late summer tour of the Flower Blossom Farm in Ghent, NY. Owner Kim Thompson guided the group through the greenhouses and fields which were in full bloom. Flower Blossom Farm wholesales flowers to area floral retail outlets. Members agreed that the excursion was both informative and beautiful!

The club recently took an early Fall Horticulture trip to the Landis Arboretum in Esperance, NY. Fred Breglia, the Executive Director and an arborist, conducted a walking tour along one of the trails. Members were told about the various and unique specimens as well as diseases that affect them, how to properly plant a tree, and conditions that impact tree growth.

Club members participated in the 101st Columbia County Fair over Labor Day weekend as part of their community outreach. The exhibit was both educational and beautiful.

Members of the Kinderhook Garden Club conducted a design workshop in advance of their flower show. Previous winners provided tips on how to prepare for the competition.

The Garden Club of Kinderhook presented its biennial Standard Flower Show September 22, 23, and 24 at the Kinderhook Town Hall in Valatie, NY. Members competed in six design classes and 17 Horticulture classes. The theme for this year's show was This Land Is Your Land: A Tribute to the National Park Service at 100.

Welcome Bags for NGC-CAR Conference

by Camille McComb

Club members Patricia LaFountain (below left) and Denise Hess (below right) created welcome bags at the home of Camille McComb, Third District Director. State Presidents attending the NGC-CAR Conference at The Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs, on October 23–25 each received one upon arrival.



Above: members at Flower Blossom Farm. Below left to right: members of the Fair committee; Cynthia Bogardus, Stephanie Carradine, and Fran Heaney.



Above left: Kinderhook Garden Club member, Cynthia Bogardus, with her prize-winning hanging design. Above right: People's Choice Winner, Loyita Woods, with her interpretation of the national parks at the refreshment table.

SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Helene Morris

For Arbor Day, the Shawangunk Garden Club planted a flowering tree at the Mamakating Historical Society. Every year we choose a spot in a different town to honor the day. We've given scholarships to two of our local schools totaling \$1,000, had a Mother's Day plant sale in May, given monthly to food pantries, and planted and maintained containers throughout the town of Ellenville. Twice a year we do our Adopt-a-Highway Program to clean the roads throughout Ellenville.

The club went to the Vanderbilt Mansion Museum and gardens this past July and incorporated lunch at The Culinary Institute of America. We had a booth at the Blueberry Festival in August in Ellenville where we sold flowers from our gardens, plants, disseminated information on gardening, and sold gardening books. In September, we hosted a Victorian tea at the library called Arts and Flowers. Floral arrangements were made, and then artwork was done to reflect each arrangement. This was shown at the Terwilliger Museum. In some cases artwork was done by one person and the flower arrangement by someone else. In October, we made centerpieces for a fund-raising event hosted by the Ellenville Regional Hospital Gala.

In November, we will decorate the Terwilliger House Museum for the holidays. And in December, we will also make centerpieces for the Noonday Club's Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner.



Above: members enjoy a delicious lunch at the CIA. Below: members Joanne Everett and Patti Foster at the Vanderbilt Mansion garden.

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack

On July 20, members of the Tioronda Garden Club visited the Franklin D. Roosevelt Estate and Library in Hyde Park. Club members were provided with a guided tour of the many gardens and greenhouses by horticulturist Paul Laurelli, a 39-year veteran at the estate. After the tour, the group enjoyed lunch at Cosimo's restaurant overlooking the beautiful Hudson River in Poughkeepsie.

The club cultivates and plants the gardens at the historic Howland Cultural Center in Beacon, home of the Tioronda Garden Club. Maintenance of these gardens is provided by the club in exchange for the use of the center for its monthly meetings and club events.



Above: Carol DiMicco, (left) President of the Marlborough Garden Club along with Gary Barrack, President of the Tioronda Club shown with club members at the Franklin Roosevelt Estate and Library at Hyde Park, NY. Below: Club members (l to r) Jean and Bob Haight, Norm MacLeod, Helen Lang and Barbara Daddario cultivating the gardens at the Howland Cultural Center.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL DISTRICT MEETING:
Autumn Moon
 OCTOBER 20, 2016

Pegasus Restaurant, 10885 State Route 9W, Coxsackie



Greenport Garden Club did a great job at the Registration Table.



Waiting for the program to begin.



FGCNYS President Pat Wania and Camille McComb.



We were entertained by Liza and Lonesome.



Camille McComb introduces the new slate of officers for 2017.



Maria Zincio was the presenter. She spoke about the inspiration behind her series of paintings called 'The Lost Holocaust—A Family Story.'



Her paintings were accompanied by floral designs that were inspired by her story.



Each design depicted a moment in time that her family went through.



Some examples of the Facinators that were presented at the meeting.

Awards

by Patricia Blundell, Awards Coordinator



THIRD DISTRICT AWARDS

Civic Concern:

Garden Club of Kinderhook #6. a. iii
Garden Club of Kinderhook #6. d. iii
Greenbush Garden Club #6. a. i

Garden Therapy:

Garden Club of Kinderhook
Greenbush Garden Club

Historic Preservation:

Garden Club of Kinderhook #41. C. iii
Greenbush Garden Club #41. C i

Publications:

Greenbush Garden Club
Germantown Garden Club

Flower Show Schedule:

Germantown Garden Club
Garden Club of Kinderhook

Flower Show:

Germantown Garden Club
Garden Club of Kinderhook

Peg King Flower Show Award for Outstanding Flower Show:

The Garden Club of Kinderhook received this award along with a \$50 check.

Yearbook Citations:

Class I

First Place: H. Gilbert Harlow

Class II

First Place: Tie—New Paltz Garden Club,
Guilderland Garden Club

Second Place: Greenport Garden Club

Third Place: Tie—Saugerties Society of Little Gardens,
Schoharie Valley Garden Club

Class III

First Place: Germantown Garden Club

Second Place: Community Garden Club of Athens

Class IV

First Place: Clematis Garden Club

Second Place: Tie—Tioronda Garden Club,
Shawangunk Garden Club

Third Place: Garden Club of Kinderhook

FGCNYS, INC. AWARDS

CLUB RECOGNITION CITATIONS:

Community Garden Club of Marlborough
Germantown Garden Club
The Garden Club of Kinderhook
Shawangunk Garden Club

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB AWARDS

CERTIFICATE IN APPRECIATION OF AWARDS

PARTICIPATION:

Greenbush Garden Club
Germantown Garden Club

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB ACHIEVEMENT

AWARD:

Standard Flower Show – Germantown Garden Club.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB CERTIFICATE OF

COMMENDATION:

First Place: Publicity Press Book, The Garden Clubs of
Columbia County

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB CERTIFICATE OF

COMMENDATION:

First Place: Historic Preservation, Greenbush Garden Club

Special thanks to all the clubs who shared their wonderful projects with us by applying for awards.

RAISING MY HAND TO HELP ENLIGHTENED ME

by Camille McComb, Third District Director

In March 2015 I was installed as Third District Director at The Desmond Hotel in Albany. Jeanne T. Nelson reported at the business meeting there, that New York would be the host state for the NGC-CAR Conference in the fall of 2016. The location had not yet been finalized, there were many details that needed to be completed, but an outline of committees had been developed with chairpersons required. As I looked over the list, my right arm went up as I volunteered to chair the Favors Committee. I remember a new director colleague sitting next to me saying, “Good for you for jumping right in” and I thought, “Why not?” We all have to assume ownership and responsibility in ensuring that New York will be a shining example to visiting VIPs and seven state presidents!



That was the beginning of a journey I will never forget. This was my area of expertise—I love to create and plan for events. The theme Historic Treasures of New York was introduced at this meeting with ideas being shared.

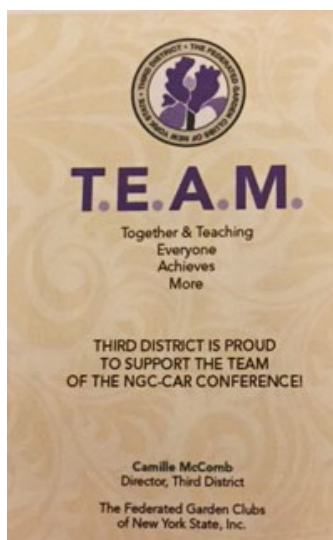
The Gideon Putnam Hotel was selected for the NGC-CAR Conference and thus the Saratoga theme—an area rich in history.



My mind was filled with favor ideas from the beginning. But the one area I knew we had to represent was the Saratoga Race Course, a thoroughbred horse racing track in Saratoga Springs, one of the most beautiful in the country, 153 years old, and operated by the New York Racing Association.

Chocolate horsehead lollipops; fascinators and boutonnieres; and frogs (inspired by the NGC President’s book, *The Frightened Frog*), seed packets, and stickers; all wrapped beautifully, were the favors given at three of the meals. A special “go to the races hat” was created for our very own, Tony Antes, Vice Chairman of this event! I was also asked to create welcome bags for the VIPs and State Presidents. The TEAM was active once again with four clubs participating—Country Garden Club of Clifton Park, the Garden Study Club of Albany, the Greenbush Garden Club, and the Garden Club of Kinderhook. All of them created gorgeous welcome bags. Each bag was placed in the VIP rooms, so upon arrival, they were there for them to enjoy.

When I arrived at the hotel, I saw in the lobby the most beautiful floral designs to welcome Sandra Robinson, President of NGC. They were absolutely breathtaking.



Above: Beautiful floral designs in the lobby. Above right: Visiting the Saratoga National Park. Left: examples of the ads that were placed in the program booklet.



Designs created by each district decorated tables in the lobby as well, providing a fabulous visual for all to enjoy! After checking in and going to my room, I went downstairs to register. I was a delegate who would vote Tuesday morning on the CAR motions, pretty exciting! That evening after the VIPs were whisked away for a recognition dinner, we enjoyed a mix and mingle event with delightful culinary offerings and then a ghost tour of Saratoga, boo!

Monday was breakfast on your own. It was followed by a bus tour of Saratoga Battlefield, Cottages, and the Saratoga Race Course with lunch at the Saratoga National Golf Course. Did you know that the potato chip and the club sandwich have their origins on Saratoga Lake?

Workshops were available throughout the day if you were interested in attending, and there were many vendors to visit and make a purchase.

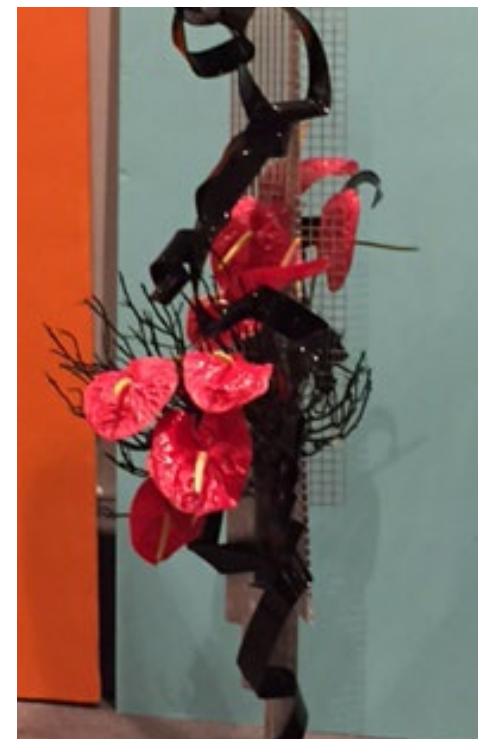
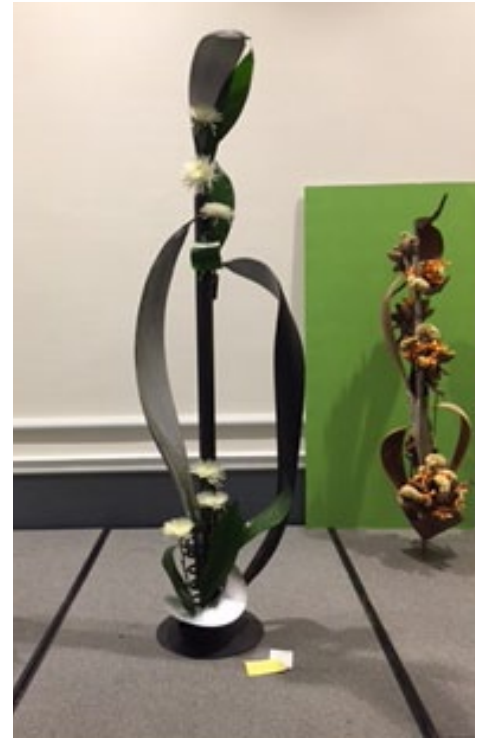
On Monday evening there was a reception honoring NGC President, Sandra Robinson and CAR Director, Anne Bucher, followed by a banquet honoring former and present NGC Presidents, former and present State Presidents, and an awards presentation. The program speaker, Glen Decker enlightened all by sharing his personal story, Hunting the Elusive Orchid.

On Tuesday, the NGC-CAR Executive Board Meeting and General Session was held, this is where I voted! The design luncheon with On Thai, who created wonderful floral designs and shared his expertise, was great. Additional workshops were held in the afternoon, topped off with an evening reception honoring former CAR Directors and present and former CAR Board Members with a Banquet celebration called Welcome to the Races: Viewing Our Past.

The Tuesday evening dinner was absolutely fabulous, ending with a two-minute movie of the Triple Crown winner, American Pharoah, racing at the Saratoga Race Course, with all of us cheering her on in spirit.

On the go, from the start to the finish, I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. Laughter, networking, and collaborating at the NGC-CAR 2016 Conference, Historic Treasures of New York are memories that will last a lifetime.

The friendships and partnering will always be remembered, I'm so glad I raised my right arm 18 months ago!



Above left: A floral design in the shape of New York State. Above: Wonderful floor designs were on display.



NGC-CAR 2016 CONFERENCE – “HISTORIC TREASURES of NEW YORK”

TO ALL FGCNYS MEMBERS:

We would like to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for all the time and effort so many of you gave to making the NGC-CAR 2016 Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY, a SMASHING SUCCESS.

It is with great pride that we saw so many members and their clubs step forward when asked if they would be willing to do a job. An event such as this does not get done without many people getting together as TEAMS to accomplish a 3-day extravaganza. Many attendees had never been to the Saratoga area and learned the historic significance of our American beginnings.

From the moment attendees arrived until their departure, it was apparent that FGCNYS members welcomed them with floral displays, great tours, gifts bags, happy registration tables, interesting signage and capsule trunks of areas of our state, outstanding food, interesting workshops, fun favors, varied vendors, nationally acclaimed speakers, gracious hostesses, music by a local college member, Honor Guard representing a historic cemetery, the friendliness of FGCNYS MEMBERS and the willingness to accommodate our needs by the staff of the Gideon Putnam Hotel. The Educational displays gave all an opportunity to gain knowledge about garden club activities and our concern for the environment and honoring our service personnel.

WE have received so many wonderful emails and thank you notes from those who attended, telling us what a great time they had and learning a little of our state's and nation's history. For those of you who were unable to attend this historic event, we are sorry you missed an opportunity to enjoy working and getting to know the fun we have with fellow garden club members.

We thank all who were a part of NGC-CAR 2016 Conference and extend our thanks to our FGCNYS President, Patricia Wania, for her support through the last two years while planning this event.

Jeanne & Tony

Clubs Calendar 2016–17

November 17

Third District Board Meeting, 11 a.m., Tesoro Restaurant, 2080 Western Ave., Guilderland.

December 2–4

Open House and Greens Show, Guilderland Garden Club, Dec. 2: 4–8 p.m., Dec. 3 and 4: 1–5 p.m. Theme: O Christmas Tree! Wreaths and arrangements for sale. Mynderse-Frederick House, Route 146, Guilderland.

December 2–4

Gallery of Wreaths, Vanderpoel House of History, Kinderhook. Columbia County Garden Clubs' wreath donations will be on display. Fri. noon–4 p.m., Sat. noon–4 p.m., Sun. noon–4 p.m..

December 3–4

Holiday Open House at the Palatine Parsonage, Germantown Garden Club, Sat. 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Sun.

1–3 p.m. Horticulture show Winter Container Plants and sale of handmade wreaths, table arrangements, and crafts. 52 Maple Ave., Germantown.

March 16, 2017

Third District Board Meeting, Kozel's Restaurant, Ghent.

April 3–5, 2017

FGCNYS, Inc. Annual Meeting, Millennium Buffalo, Buffalo, NY.

April 20, 2017

Third District Spring Meeting, Spring Forth. Kozel's Restaurant, Ghent.

Capital District Garden and Flower Show 2017

by Diane Madden

Third District has decided to have a booth at the Capital District Show again in 2017.

The event manager from Spring Thyme Marketing, the organization that runs the whole show, hasn't settled on a date yet.

It will either be in February or March. In anticipation of the event we'll be looking for volunteers to man (woman?) the booth, a person who can present a 45 minute horticultural program, and a few people to form a committee to collect information, handle the advertising and the raffle. The details are still kind of fuzzy so as soon as I know more I'll contact your club presidents directly. If you want to snatch one of the jobs right now, you can email me at: 3rddistrictgarden@gmail.com. or call me at 518-283-1067



Top: Volunteers from the Hugh Plat Garden Club manning last year's booth. Bottom: District director Camille McComb talks to visitors at last year's show.

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*.