

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



NOVEMBER 2017

CONTENTS

Registration of New Members	2
State Conference and Meeting	3
Awards	4
Third District Fall Meeting	5
In Our Clubs	7
Flower Show School	6
Penny Pines	13

Editor's Note

AN ODE TO TOMATOES

I had so many tomatoes this year, I thought this poem would be perfect to share.

From the Genesee Farmer, 1848 TO PRESERVE TOMATOES.

Six pounds of tomatoes first carefully wipe.
Not fluted nor green, but round, ruddy and ripe:
After scalding, and peeling, and rinsing them nice—
With dexterous fingers 'tis done in a trice—
Add three pounds of sugar, (Orleans will suit,)
In layers alternate of sugar and fruit.
In a deep earthen dish, let them stand for a night,
Allowing the sugar and juice to unite.
Boil the sirup next day in a very clean kettle.
(Not iron, but copper, zinc, brass, or bell metal.)
Which having well skimmed till you think 'twill suffice,
Throw in the tomatoes, first adding some spice—
Cloves, cinnamon, mace, or whate'er you like best—
'Twill add to the flavor and give them a zest.
Boil slowly together until they begin
To shrink at the sides, and appear to fall in:
Then take them up lightly, and lay them to cool,
Still boiling the sirup, according to rule.
Until it is perfectly clear and translucent—
Your skill will direct you, or else there's no use in 't—
Then into the jars, where the fruit is placed proper,
Pour boiling the sirup, direct from the copper.
After standing till cold, dip some paper in brandy,
Or rum, or in whiskey if that is more handy;
Lay it over the fruit with attention and care.
And run on mutton suet to keep it out the air:
Then tie a strong paper well over the top—
And now that I think on't, the story may stop."
If you follow these rules, your preserves, never fear.
Will keep in good order till this time next year.

Karin Janson, Editor, *The Digest*
kjanson@aol.com

From the Director



It is hard to believe that my first year as your Director is nearing its end. What I have enjoyed most about it was meeting so many members at all levels in the organization. In an ever-changing world, it is gratifying to know that some things never change. Things like the enthusiasm and dedication of the members of the Third District who volunteer each and every day to help beautify our communities, our environment, and our nation.

During the past few months, I have had the pleasure of visiting several club events. The Community Garden Club of Marlborough sponsored a Small Standard Flower Show. It was very evident that much time and effort went into scheduling, staging, judging, and making the show such a huge success. The members were so enthusiastic as they guided me through the many entries. A special thank you to their very talented Club President Carol DiMicco who did an incredible job in planning and executing this event.

Next, it was on to the 90th Anniversary celebration of the Shawangunk Garden Club in Ellenville. While driving into Ellenville for the first time, the presence of a vibrant garden club was evident, with beautiful hanging baskets, flowers beds, and manicured shrubs. And the members couldn't have been nicer. I received such a warm welcome from Club President Deborah Stack. She conducted an extraordinary program, followed by a reception with world-class pastries and desserts made by club members.

(cont. on pg 2)



I attended the 90th Anniversary of the Shawangunk Garden Club. Standing next to me are Club President Debbie Stack and Vice President Sue Harris.

(Director's Message from pg 1)

In September, I was a guest at the Garden Study Club of Albany's annual luncheon at the Albany Country Club. Club President Jean Keehfus was most gracious and meeting members of the club for the first time was a great experience. Longtime member Ronnie Blendell introduced me to several members, many of whom have known each other since high school and college.

Our Fall Golden Harvest District meeting in Kingston, NY was a huge success, both socially and financially. Over 80 members attended. It was so gratifying to see a large number of clubs who were recognized with awards for their accomplishments during the past year.

I am pleased to report that the Third District had an increase of 17 new members since March 2017. An initiative during my term of office is for a net increase of at least two new members per club each year. Congratulations to all clubs who have met or exceeded this goal. So please ask a friend, a neighbor, a relative, or anyone who has a love of gardening to join your club and be a part of this great organization. With your help, we can continue our mission to create a cleaner, greener and healthier world.

Now that Thanksgiving and the holidays are fast approaching, let us pause and reflect, taking time to give thanks for our many blessings; for the gift of family and friends; and above all, for the privilege and great fortune to live in such a great and beautiful country.

REGISTRATION OF NEW MEMBERS

By Carole Garvar

When your club enrolls a new member, the protocol to be followed is to contact District III Membership Chair Joan Giordano by mail with the following information: the member's name, address, phone number, and email contact. Joan does not have email so a hard copy should be mailed directly to her at the following address:

Joan Giordano
30 Brinker Drive South
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Joan then forwards the information to F.G.C. of N.Y.S. where the member's name is added to the roster of your club's membership. This is important in that it provides NYS President Monica Hansen with an accurate picture of growth. Monica has asked in the most recent newsletter from F.G.C. of N.Y.S for

clubs to plant the seed of increasing membership and to make it your goal to attract and retain four new members.

If you have ideas or suggestions please send them to Monica so that she can share in periodic mailings to club presidents. Each club accomplishing the goal of enrolling four new members over the following year will receive recognition at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Binghamton.

Names of new members will be sent by Joan to our Third District Director, Gary Barrack, who will issue certificates to any club enrolling two or more members at our fall and spring meetings.

Please make it a priority to follow this protocol.

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 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, Hillside Acres, New Paltz, Saugerties Society of Little Gardens, Shawangunk, Ulster, Woodstock

WORLD GARDENING

Reminder! December 31 is the deadline to send in your club's checks for World Gardening.

Please send to:
Marie Celeste
World Gardening Chair
39 Donegal Ave.
Troy, NY 12180





Thanks for the Memories: FGCNYS Fall Conference Highlights

by Camille McComb, FGCNYS Fall Conference Chairman

The FGCNYS, INC. 67th Fall Conference was held September 17–19 at the Best Western Plus in Kingston, NY. From the time of arrival to departure, members were able to experience Third District hospitality at its best. The self-guided tour of Kingston's historic district on a beautiful Sunday afternoon was a fun event enjoyed by many. Poster displays were set up, raffle items arrived, guests mingled by the pool or in the lounge/corridor, which was filled with sunny windows, green plants, and comfy chairs to relax in. Registration was completed as guests arrived, with a total of 90 full- and part-time registrants. An informal supper was enjoyed by all. Lynne Arnold shared a presentation on the Blue Karner Butterfly. Attendees received a poem written by Lynne on blue paper as a favor, allowing us to relax before returning to our room to sleep in a comfy bed with anticipation of Monday's busy schedule.

Breakfast in the lounge was the perfect way to start Monday. Registration continued, vendors arrived and set up tables with items for sale, the Board of Director's meeting was held, and Barbara Campbell enlightened us on Reconciliation Ecology. Time for lunch: succulents in pots as table centerpieces with apple-shaped post-it-notes and pencils as favors, and we were enlightened by Dr. George W. Crosby's Horticulture presentation. Afterwards, the



Left: Michele Peters, Floral Designer/ Owner, Ambiance Floral Shop, gave a great demonstration. Right: Elizabeth Walker shows off Michele's spectacular wedding bouquet arrangement.

Judges' Council Program presentation was open to all, followed by the Judges' Council Chairman's Meeting, a closed meeting, thank you, Nancy Schopf, Chairman! Shall we shop before meeting for dinner? Absolutely! Another outstanding presentation after a delicious dinner, by Sylvia Hasenkopf on 'The History of Winemaking in the Hudson Valley.' Wine bottle (empty) centerpieces surrounded by fresh green and red grapes with champagne cork key chain favors complimented the speaker's talk.

It's Tuesday and where did the time go? Registration and vendor shopping continued, the Fall Conference General Session with Awards presented, remember, we're in it, to win it! The 'Posies, Paintings, and Postcards' workshop with Fran Heaney was enjoyed by 45-plus attendees! What an artistic group we are, creative energy was channeled from colored pencils and paint to produce postcards to take home. It's time for lunch: maple leaf-shaped sugar cookies, beautifully decorated and wrapped favors, herb-filled pots wrapped in burlap and a scarecrow, then Michele Peters, speaker and floral designer gave a great presentation with designs of the 1950's. What a beautiful way to end the Conference by going down memory lane, especially the gorgeous bridal bouquet.

As the song goes, 'Thanks for the Memories!'



Top Left: Centerpieces and champagne cork key chain favors.

Top Right: Raffle basket from Hudson-Chatham Winery.

Left: A Posey Postcard created at the 'Posey, Painting, Postcard' workshop.



AWARDS

by Patricia Blundell, Awards Coordinator



THIRD DISTRICT CITATIONS

Civic Concern:

Tioronda Garden Club

Publicity—Newsletters:

Germantown Garden Club

Standard Flower Show Schedule:

Germantown Garden Club

Community Garden Club of Marlborough

Standard Flower Show:

Germantown Garden Club

Community Garden Club of Marlborough

Yearbook Citations:

Class I

First Place: Saugerties Society of Little Gardens

Second Place: H. Gilbert Harlow

Class II

Second Place: Tie—Greenbush Garden Club,
Greenport Garden Club

Third Place: Saugerties Society of Little Gardens

Class III

First Place: Germantown Garden Club

Second Place: Tie—Athens Community Garden Club,
Clematis Garden Club

Third Place: Guilderland Garden Club

Class IV

First Place: Shawangunk Garden Club

Second Place: Garden Club of Kinderhook

Third Place: Tioronda Garden Club

FGCNYS, INC. AWARDS

Club Recognition Citation:

Shawangunk Garden Club

2016 Yearbook Awards:

First Place: Clematis Garden Club

Second Place: H. Gilbert Harlow Garden Club

Third Place: Guilderland Garden Club

Honorable Mention: Germantown Garden Club

2017 Yearbook Citations:

Class I

First Place: Saugerties Society of Little Gardens

Class III

First Place: Germantown Garden Club

Class IV

First Place: Shawangunk Garden Club

Certificate of Achievement Award—Youth Poetry:

Sponsoring club: Athens Community Garden Club

36 individual Certificates were received for children who participated in the State Youth Poetry Contest.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION CITATIONS

Press Book Award:

Class III

First Place: Germantown Garden Club

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB AWARDS

Certificate in Appreciation of Award Participation:

Garden Club of Kinderhook

Germantown Garden Club

Standard Flower Show Achievement Award:

Garden Club of Kinderhook: Patriotic Standard Flower
Show—This Land is Your Land

Germantown Garden Club: Standard Flower Show—
An Apple a Day

Publicity Press Book:

District III

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



FALL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Golden Harvest

OCTOBER 19, 2017

by Merril-Lee Lenegar, First Assistant Director, Third District

On October 19, 80 members representing 16 clubs, attended the Third District Fall Meeting at the Best Western Plus in Kingston. Participants took advantage of the opportunity to try to win one of the many raffle baskets provided by Albany County Garden Clubs and individual members, as well as shop the Ways and Means and Vendors. Many awards were presented including Citations from the Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc., Central Atlantic Region, and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Director Gary Barrack recognized former Third District Director Marie Muller for her 50 years of membership in the Schoharie Valley Garden Club. Her name has been placed in the 2017–2019 Book of Recognition. Also recognized was Fran Bufi, who has served as President of the Germantown Garden Club for the past 17 years. Directors Citations were also awarded to clubs who attained a net increase of two or more new members since April 1, 2017

Following lunch, Denise Doring VanBuren, Central Hudson Vice President, active local historian and editor of the DAR's national magazine, gave a presentation on 'Garden Variety' which addressed topics related to the Hudson Valley including the need and importance of pruning trees near power lines; the contributions of Hudson Valley native Andrew Downing Jackson, father of American Landscape Design, and the properties he designed in our area; and the DAR's involvement in conservation.



Top: Denise Doring VanBuren gave a very interesting presentation on a variety of topics. Bottom: Registration was a very smooth process thanks to ladies of the Greenport Garden Club.



Left: Flower arrangement designed by Craig Wolz was presented to the speaker. Right: Raffle baskets provided by the Albany County Clubs were very popular and raised money for the District.

Back to School with Flowers

by Camille McComb, Garden Club of Kinderhook

I had the pleasure of attending the Flower Show School, Course 1 on October 3–5, in Chappaqua, along with Elizabeth Walker from the Woodstock Garden Club. The course was not only for prospective flower show exhibitors and judges but for any garden club member interested in learning more about floral design and horticulture.

The horticulture curriculum was taught by Dorothy Yard, an instructor of Flower Show Schools and Symposia for horticulture and flower show procedures, and has taught in 39 states. A Five Star Member of NGC, Dorothy is currently serving on the NGC board as Chairman of the Flower Show Schools Committee.

Jackie Davies is an NGC Master Judge and landscape design consultant. She currently serves on the NGC Board of Directors as a member of the Flower Show Schools Committee.

She is an instructor of Flower Show Schools and Symposia for design, is a former state president of the Garden Club Federation of PA, and is currently serving as the State Judges Council Chairman. She is a member of the Creative Flower Arrangers of the Americas as well as a member of National Flower Arrangers. Her design curriculum covered traditional floral arrangements through contemporary styles with an emphasis on elements and principles of design.

Two days of instruction, point scoring, networking, a delicious lunch, ways and means, raffle and book sales, and design items was followed by a written exam.

Special thanks to Carol Della Femina, 9th District Director, Pam Wright, Chairman, and Chris Wolff, Registrar for coordinating a successful Flower Show Course!



Top: One of Jackie Davies' floral designs.

Bottom: Flower arranging inspiration.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE BIGGER PICTURE OF NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS

by Barbara Campbell,
NGC Member Services Chairman,
CAR Secretary, FGCNYS Former President

At the Fall District Meeting, there were conversations about the recent disasters around our country and ways to help. Members are always asking about what garden clubs do, so I thought I would shed some insights about these great programs.

Penny Pines: This program has been in existence since 1947. Clubs from all over the country have been giving money to reforest our national parks. The money has to be in \$68 dollar increments. When the program was started, a seedling cost one cent. It took 680 seedlings to plant one acre. Therefore, \$68 would plant 10 acres. You may designate a special area to have reforested or leave it up to the US Forest Service. If the money goes through NGC, it adds to our totals. So far, Penny Pines has planted 27

million seedlings and covered 88,000 acres in California alone. Today they plant more than seedlings and not only pines. There is information on the national website (gardenclub.org) on how to contribute and a donation form. You can also contact the NGC National Chairman directly as well: Janice Clem: janiceclem101@gmail.com. Considering the devastation in California, this would be a great time to help.

Natural Disasters Fund: Started in 1997, this fund was established by NGC to aid public gardens or club beautification projects wiped out by hurricanes, fires, floods, tornadoes, etc. Grants are given for up to \$5,000. All the money donated goes to the fund. Information is on the website: gardenclub.org/projects/natural-disasters.aspx. One of the recipients was our own District VI Director Tony Antes. He received a grant several years ago to restore the Cutler Botanic Garden in Binghamton that was

destroyed by a major flood. The National Chairman is Patricia Smith: pasmith75@bellsouth.net. Again, after these past few months, lots of money will be needed.

Million Pollinator Garden Challenge: Because of our reputation, NGC was invited by the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge to be an inaugural network partner. To date, there are 649,944 gardens registered (two are mine). Once again there is information on the NGC website gardenclub.org or go to the Million Pollinator Garden web site. This is a great way to encourage pollinators in our yards and to help save them from extinction. Rene McCoy is our National Chairman: renemac88@hotmail.com.

National Garden Clubs is doing many worthwhile projects. This is just a sample. These particularly address the concerns we have today.

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

At the August luncheon and meeting of the Germantown Garden Club, Columbia-Greene Cornell Cooperative Extension master gardener Jean Thomas gave a presentation on 'Creating a Special Garden with Bulbs'. Jean gave a talk and presentation about gardening with bulbs. She spoke about how she incorporates bulbs in her own garden. Her talk focused on a few major considerations such as bulb choice, deer resistance, low maintenance, successive bloom, and fragrance. Including bulbs in different landscapes was also discussed. A lively question and answer period followed the presentation.

Continuing with our theme for 2017 of 'Creating Special Gardens,' the club visited the gardens of member Mary Puskar. Mary's gardens sit on 85 acres with three miles of trails that border the Roe Jan Kill. She has an orchard of 550 apple trees with 12 varieties that grow on seven acres. You drive through the beautifully maintained orchard to reach the house and gardens. Mary gave an informational tour of her fenced-in annual and perennial flower raised garden beds. The tour emphasized her vegetable gardens and featured her new special garden bed that was devoted to squashes. Included in her presentation was information about her house which utilizes geothermal heating/cooling and solar.

At the October meeting, member Elke Crane presented a hands-on workshop 'Making Scarves from T-Shirts.' Participants learned how to make scarves from new or old t-shirts. Different events like this workshop are meant to help produce items to add to the sale at the club's Holiday Open House fundraiser December 2nd and 3rd. Along with a spring plant sale, our club raises money to support the many philanthropies and civic projects on our agenda. Included is a scholarship for a Germantown High School graduating senior, the restoration of the grounds of the historic 1767 Germantown Palatine parsonage, various projects with seniors of the Livingston Hills Nursing Center, annual book and monetary donations to the Germantown Library; the Columbia Land Conservancy; the River Keeper; holiday decorations of wreaths and Christmas trees for Main Street; and a club scholarship to a member who attends a FGCNYS sponsored horticulture/flower show school or symposium or a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener course.

At the District III Fall Conference, the club was honored to receive nine awards. Culminating a year of work, the club received Third District Citations for their 2017 Standard Flower Show Schedule and Standard Flower Show 'Gardens, Gardens, Gardens,' a Publicity-Newsletter citation, and first place for the 2017 yearbook 'Creating Special Gardens.' From FGCNYS an honorable mention for the 2016 yearbook 'Make Every Day Earth Day,' and first place for the 2017 yearbook 'Creating Special Gardens'. From CAR we received first place for our Press Book. From NGC the club received a Standard Flower Show Award and a Purple Rosette Ribbon for the 2016 Flower Show 'An Apple A Day' and a Certificate of Appreciation of Award Participation—Newsletter Publication. Congratulations to all those members who put in many hours of hard work to make this achievement possible.



Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Jean Thomas speaking to the Germantown Garden Club.



Germantown Garden Club member Mary Puskar leading a group of garden club members on a tour of one of her gardens.



Germantown Garden Club member Elke Crane leads the T-Shirt workshop.



So many awards! Pictured left to right: Recording Secretary Marilyn Rein, member Irene Clum, President Fran Bufi, member Karin Janson, and member Melanie Nelson.

GREENPORT GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

At the club's annual Youth Awards Dinner in August, the Greenport Garden Club presented its Youth Scholarship Award to Nicole Hallenbeck of Claverack. The scholarship, in the amount of \$2,000, is a combined award from Peter and Barbara Budelman of the General Roll Leaf Manufacturing Co., Inc. and the club. The award provides a scholarship for a recent high school graduate pursuing their post-secondary education in an agricultural/environmental program and who is accepted and registered at a college in the preceding fall semester. The student selection is based on the student's essay, teacher recommendations, their course of study, and career goals. Nicole Hallenbeck entered the Individual Studies Program at Columbia-Greene Community College. She will complete her first two years of liberal arts studies for transfer to SUNY Cobleskill into the Dairy and Business Management Program.

The award process is coordinated by Cindy Teator, club coordinator of the scholarship program and partnered with Hudson Middle School teacher, Karen Antonelli and Peter and Barbara Budelman of The General Roll Leaf Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Greenport Garden Club Showcase 'Autumn in New York' at the Columbia County Fair

'Autumn in New York' was the club's theme at the Columbia County Fair this year. The club's design reflected the beautiful fall colors that mark the tapestry of the Hudson Valley. A garden path was adorned by mums, petunias, caladium, oakleaf hydrangea, forsythia, and freshly cut bales of hay with a beehive tucked away with small critters along the path. Included in the display was a wicker bench to lounge in and a picnic basket to share the bounties and enjoy the view. A joint effort with the club included hay donated by Son Val Farm, a bushel of apples by Cherry Ridge Farm, beehive donated by Blue Hill Bees, hand painted rocks by Lynn Kowalski and backdrop photo of Olana sunset by club member artist Maria Kolodziej-Zincio. Members of the Fair Committee: Kathy Bucholsky, Angela Rapp, Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Judy Zink, Sue Dillhoff and Lynn Kowalski prepared the educational booth.

Ikebana Workshop

The club hosted a hands-on workshop on 'Ikebana—The Japanese Art of Flower Arrangement' at their October 5th meeting. Ellen Rook, a certified instructor of *Sogetsu Ikebana* introduced members to this Seventh Century art of Japanese flower arranging. Members learned how to handle, trim, and place materials in the ancient Ikebana style that gives life to flowers. Each member walked away with their own beautiful arrangement.

Ecology Walk

The Greenport Garden Club hosted an ecology walk with Cornell Cooperative Extension's Agroforestry Resource Center in Acra. Members walked the woodlands and learned about the economic and human health benefits of forested land. The Agroforestry Center in Acra is part of Northeast US Agroforestry whose practices include sustainable woodlot management as use of woodlands for raising shade-growing crops such as American ginseng, mushrooms, maple syrup, nuts, fruits, and wood products.



Top: Greenport Garden Club's display 'Autumn in the Country' at the Columbia County Fair.

Center: Ellen Rook assists club member Cecelia Sinclair in creating an Ikebana arrangement.

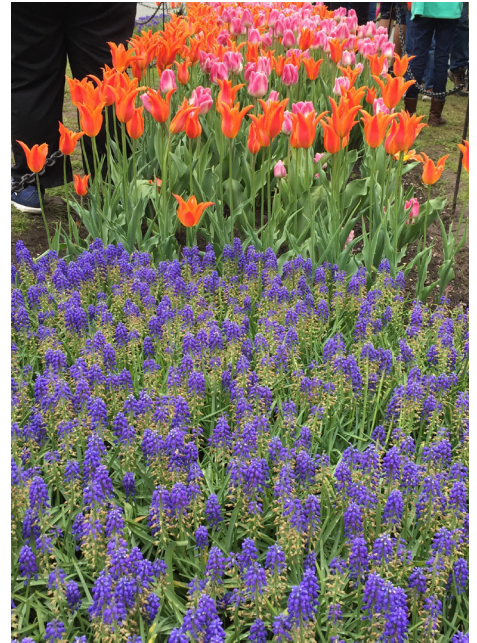
Bottom: Members participate in a field trip at the Acra Agroforestry Center. Pictured (l to r): Carol Novack, Stephanie Teator-Gaylord, Nancy Westbrook, Carolyn West, Angela Rapp, Kathy Bucholsky, Judy Zinc, and Cindy Teator.

GREENPORT GARDEN CLUB (CONT)

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Cynthia Teator

In the spring I attended the tulip festival in Albany with my son from Guilderland. We had fun strolling in the park admiring the lovely bright colorful flowers! So much that we took pictures of the ones we admired. Soon afterward I ordered bulbs from our district's fundraiser with Brett and Becky's bulbs. The bulbs have arrived so now my son Douglas and I will need to plant them. We have fun sharing gardening activities with our families to continue knowledge and traditions!



GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Merrill-Lee Lenegar

The Guilderland Garden Club is busy getting ready for the Annual Open House and Greens Show at the Mynderse-Frederick House at 451 Main Street, Route 146 West in Guilderland Center. The event, co-sponsored by the Guilderland Historical Society, is scheduled for Friday, December 1 from 4–8 PM, and Saturday and Sunday, December 2 and 3 from 1–5 PM. The theme this year is 'The Sounds of the Season.' Visitors to this free event will enjoy homemade refreshments, musical entertainment and a visit from Santa Claus. The house will be decorated with ornaments, wreaths, and arrangements made by garden club members. Nonperishable donations will be collected for the Regional Food Bank. A portion of the proceeds will benefit a local organization. Members of the Historical Society will be present to provide information on the history of the House. For more information visit our website at www.guilderlandgardenclub.com or find us on FACEBOOK. Please LIKE us and share with your friends!

The Guilderland Garden Club is sponsoring an Art Contest to create an original design for the 2018–2019 Garden Club Yearbook. The contest is open to all members of the Guilderland Senior Center. The cover design must be original and promote the love of gardening and/or floral design. Information on how to apply, rules, and entry form may be picked up at the Guilderland Senior Center, 141 Bavarian Way, Altamont, NY 12009 or contact Linda Miller at LAmiller416@gmail.com.



The Guilderland Garden Club is busy getting ready for the Annual Open House and Greens Show at the Mynderse-Frederick House at 451 Main Street, Route 146 West in Guilderland Center.

HUGH PLAT GARDEN CLUB

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

by Mary Ann DeFonce

Each September, the Hugh Plat Garden Club decorates the Schenectady County Historical Building for the Stockade Walkabout. This year was made more interesting and challenging by a few changes to our routine. Firstly, the porch of the Historical Building was under construction. Secondly, the Historical Society received a donation of a second building, which has a very small porch. So our focus this year was more on the doorways than the porches. SIMPLE ELEGANCE.

Our meeting on October 20th promises to be a special one! We have attempted to go to Wellington's Herb Farm in Middleburgh for several years, but it never happened. Weather permitting, this was the year! We also visited the Carrot Barn and the Apple Barrel in Schoharie.

November is always a busy month for us. We will have at least one workshop to prepare for decorating the Historical Society Building at the end of the month for their 'Festival Of Trees.' Our theme this

year is 'A Child's Christmas.' Think evergreens and paper chains, skates and sleds, and candy canes.

Of course, our December 15th meeting will be our Christmas party. We also plan to support the Guilderland Garden Club's fantastic fundraiser at the Mynderse Fredricks House in Guilderland Center.



The front doors of the two buildings the club decorated for the Historical Society.

PROTECT YOUR TULIP BULBS!

by Sue Bushman, President, Hugh Plat Garden Club

Every year my husband and I plant 300–400 tulip bulbs. We plant so many because many years ago Kerry Mendez of Perennially Yours gave me this tip: treat tulip bulbs as annuals in our area! Since I had planted and waited for them to show up year after year to no avail, this made sense to me. Now I don't wait and worry, I plant every year. I also used to lose a lot of bulbs to vermin over the winter. Moles, voles, chipmunks, and squirrels LOVE tulip bulbs. So, my husband and I sat down and figured out the following method of fall tulip bulb planting.

First I shop for bulbs all fall, in the Brecks and Wayside nursery catalogs, Lowes, Home Depot, Hewitt's and other nursery sales. Kerry also recommended that because you can plant tulip bulbs until you can no longer drill the frozen soil, waiting to get the leftover bulbs on sale is a good strategy. As long as they are nice, fat, solid bulbs, the price you pay is not relevant. They are annuals, remember. I like to mix colors and bloom times for a nice spread of interest throughout the gardens and the spring season. I don't pay too much attention to waves of color, etc.

Next, we pick a nice Sunday in late October or early November. Before I make breakfast, as part of the strategy, we set up 5-gallon buckets on my wagon. Then we put 1/4 to 1/2 cup of 'Deer Away' and fill the bucket with water. Then I shove the bulbs, still in their mesh bags, down in the water. Sometimes you need to put a rock

on top of them to keep them submerged. After placing the wagon in the sun, it's time for breakfast. A couple of hours later, they have hydrated, giving them a boost for putting down roots, and they have soaked up the 'Deer Away,' giving a nasty taste and smell to repel those sneaky little vermin.

I have a drill auger that my husband puts in his cordless drill. He makes sure that all of his spare batteries are fully charged to ensure a smooth, timely planting. I make sure I have a hand rake to pull the bags out, a pair of old garden shears to cut them open, and rubber gloves on top of my gardening gloves. One to keep my hands dry and the other to keep them warm. Now we just pick a garden and start. He drills groups of 10 holes, my choice, no reason, I pull a bag out, don't look at the color, cut it open and start dropping bulbs in the holes. I have discovered that it makes no difference if they are upside down or right side up. They know which way to grow. We go from one garden to another (about 12) drilling and dropping until the buckets are empty. Then we both walk around, scuffing the dirt over the holes and stepping on them. The last thing we do is pour the water from the buckets over the gardens where we planted—just another layer of protection. Because we plan and are organized, it takes only a couple of hours from start to finish. Then all we have to do is pray for a snow cover and wait for a beautiful show of tulips come spring.

SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Debbie Stack

The Shawangunk Garden Club celebrated its 90th Anniversary with a Garden Party at the Hunt Memorial Building in Ellenville, on Saturday, September 16, 2017. The celebration included decorating the 100-year-old historical landmark with planters on the portico filled with historic 1920's flowers, an indoor garden vignette, and tea tables set with floral arrangements in teapots. Classical music played by a string trio greeted visitors. The lobby had displays depicting the Garden Club's 90 years of community beautification and awards received. Pastries and punch were served.

A joyful crowd of 200 community friends and guests were received. State and local government officials, several garden clubs from FGCNYS District III and our own Director Gary Barrack were among the visitors to the event. Gary spoke briefly about his surprise to find Ellenville a charming town with the beautiful Shawangunk Mountains as a backdrop. He was especially impressed that the Shawangunk Garden Club is an active civic group with beautification projects such as the Liberty Square 'Boy with the Boot' Fountain, street planters, hanging baskets on lamp posts, and the Hunt Building portico. He was delighted that Club Members are good bakers, too and enjoyed the pastries!

President Deborah Stack presented Gary with a 90th Anniversary Commemorative Vase as a thank you for his visit. She also presented certificates and awards to past club presidents and to members who have participated in the club for 30 or more years. Three members were given bouquets for their longevity: Ruth Terwilliger for 48 years, along with Dale Craft and Millicent Giammichele for 50 years! All three ladies served as Presidents during their membership.

Civic projects have been the main thrust of the club's activities over the past 90 years. The club is responsible for planning, planting, and providing funds for the gardens and plantings throughout the community. Since 1927, civic commitments have included: trees planted along the Route 209 corridor between Ellenville and Napanoch; plantings at the Veteran's Memorial Hospital now known as the Ellenville Regional Hospital; shrubs and planters at Hunt Memorial Building; plantings at the Ellenville Public Library and Museum; planters throughout Ellenville with flowers at Liberty Square, garden plantings in downtown Ellenville, Kerhonkson, Napanoch, and Spring Glen. Raising funds to support these projects over the years involved house and garden tours, flower shows, plant sales, holiday gift shops, harvest festivals, and quilt raffles.

The Shawangunk Garden Club has won state and national awards for Flower Shows, Yearbooks, and civic Projects. In 1977, the club received the prestigious 'Citizen of the Year Award' by the local Noonday Club and in 2016 the club was recognized for its beautification projects by Ellenville Regional Hospital at their annual Gala.

Happy 90th Anniversary Shawangunk Garden Club! Keep blooming where you are planted!



Left: (l to r) Sue Harris, Dale Craft, Millie Giammichele, Debbie Stack, and Joyce Smith, members of the committee for the 90th Anniversary Celebration. Dale and Millie are both 50-year members of the club and Joyce has been a member for 41 years.

Top: Third District Director Gary Barrack talks with members and guests at the club's 90th Anniversary celebration.

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack

Our club members toured Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring, NY on August 2. The gardens offer 12 acres of cliff rock gardens, woodland and water gardens, an enclosed English-style flower bed, and a lakeside conservatory, all at an altitude of 1,100 ft. above the Hudson River. Lunch followed at the former New York Central Cold Spring Train station, which has been converted into a pub style restaurant.

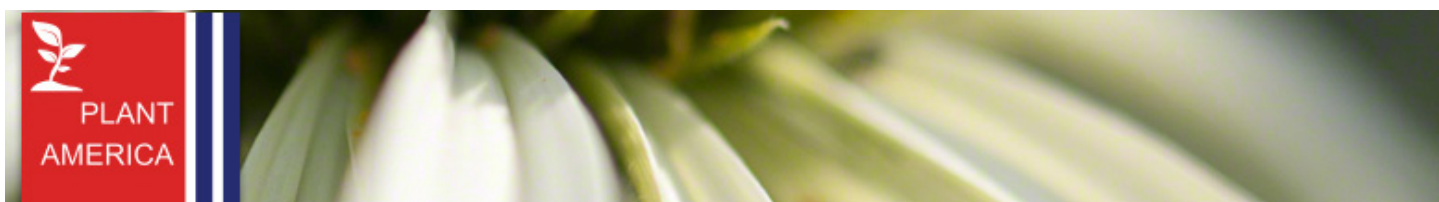
The club hosted their 12th annual Autumn Wine Festival on October 12. The club used the occasion to recognize Beacon Mayor Randy Casale and Councilman Sam Way for their support of the Tioronda Garden Club. The Mayor, an honorary member of the club, volunteers his time every year to water the 55 hanging flower baskets, flowerpots, and planters along the business district during the Spring and Summer months.



Top: Members enjoying a guided tour of Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring. Bottom: Club members, guests, and friends of the Tioronda Garden Club enjoy a night out at the club's annual Autumn Wine Festival.



Left: Civic Beautification in Action—a view of some of the 55 Hanging flower baskets adorning the lampposts of the downtown business district. Right: Club President Gary Barrack congratulates Beacon Mayor Randy Casale and Councilman Sam Way for their unwavering support of the Tioronda Garden Club.



PLANT AMERICA OVERVIEW

The Plant America initiative, President Nancy Hargroves's signature project, emphasizes the cornerstone elements of gardening: the variety of garden types; the elements required for healthy, sustainable gardens; an awareness of environmental issues; and resources to provide needed funds to put garden plans into action.

Committees have been created that focus their attention and efforts on exploring, educating, and supporting the NGC community in their particular area of expertise. The initiative also establishes an endowment fund to both receive and distribute funds to support NGC member club activities.

The Plant America project, chaired by Betty Cookendorfer, is designed to help NGC members and the public return to the 'roots' of why most members join garden clubs—to learn about gardening! This focus has provided a new structure for committees and projects, simplifying and consolidating many former initiatives under new umbrellas. Your club should envelop some of these initiatives into your programs for 2018. Here is the link: www.gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america-overview.aspx

GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE

Carole Garvar, Chair

Athens Community Garden Club: On November 9th, the Annual Luncheon and Auction was held at Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie. Participants had the opportunity to bid on a large variety of home baked goods, handmade items, and a large assortment of goods for this major fundraiser.

In December, members meet and create swags to decorate public buildings and village signs. Many members are involved in the Annual Victorian Walk, a village-wide celebration held on Dec. 9 starting at noon. The club decorates the holiday tree, bakes hundreds of cookies that are served with punch, participates in children's activities, sew costumes worn by participants, and judges best-decorated homes. The public is invited and this is a day of fun for youngsters and adults.

On December 21, the club will meet at the Zion Lutheran Church for a presentation on 'How to Build a Terrarium' by members Laura Erwig and Mimi Greenfield. The meeting is open to all.

A collection of nonperishable food was taken in October for donation to the Athens Food Pantry. In December, a collection of goods is taken to be distributed at Christmas

Clematis Garden Club: The club held their Annual Holiday Luncheon on Nov. 10th at Mountain View Brasserie. An auction of centerpieces designed by members for the holidays took place.

On Dec. 8th club member Mary Lou Nahas along with her husband and son will present a presentation on 'An Early Christmas.' Featured will be Christmas tree lights and decorations from 1850 through the 1920s. They will bring parts of their collection to illustrate the pictures.

Schoharie Valley Garden Club: Plans are abounding for the holiday season. In November the club members met twice, creating favors for the holiday luncheon, and decorating the Schoharie Library Christmas Tree, mantels, and doors. In December, the Festival of Trees—Tree Decorating by members at the NYS Power Authority in Blenheim, using birdhouses and seed packets will take place.

December 6th, the Annual Holiday and Boutique, 'HO HO HO!,' will be held at the Inn at Cobleskill from noon to 4 PM. Contact Agnes Rapoli for reservations at 518-872-0250. This event is very popular and always filled, so call early for reservations. It's a day of fun with a terrific benefit table, good food, an interesting floral presenter, and wonderful conversations.

All three clubs have added to their membership this year. Athens has three new members, Clematis has added five new members, and at last count, Schoharie added four. Congratulations to all and keep up the growth.

SAVING FORESTS \$68 AT A TIME

by Carole Garvar

We are all aware of the horrific damage done by the fires in California. Your club may want to assist by making a donation to Penny Pines to aid in reforesting these areas. Here is more information about this valuable resource.

NGC and the USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed a partnership sustaining our national and urban forests through this reforestation/forest education program.

Your Garden Club can participate in a meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68.00 to a Penny Pines plantation as part of the costs of replanting replacement trees indigenous to a particular damaged area. Whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe, pine trees and other trees



are replaced. You may designate a specific state you wish to have benefited from this contribution.

Under a conservation agreement, the forest service will do the planting, using your donation

together with federal funds, and will provide to the plantation the same protection from fires, insects, and disease given other forested areas. The plantations are a part of the regular national forest reforestation program planted on burned-over and brush-covered areas which are potentially productive timberlands. Planting sites are selected by the supervisor of each national forest. These plantations provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, future harvestable timber, as well as beauty and shade for recreation.

States, regions, districts, clubs, and/or individuals may participate in this program by donating in multiples of \$68. A \$68 donation may be made in honor or in memory of ONE individual, organization, or theme.

Clubs' Calendar 2017-2018

December 1-3, 2017

Guiderland Garden Club's Annual Open House and Greens Show, Mynderse-Frederick House, 451 Main St. Guiderland Center

December 2-3, 2017

Germantown Garden Club's Holiday Open House Palatine Parsonage, 52 Maple Ave., Germantown

April 15-17, 2018

FGCNYS Annual Meeting Doubletree Hotel, Binghamton, NY

April 19, 2018

Third District Spring Meeting Location to be announced.

May 21-24, 2018

NGC Convention Philadelphia, PA

WAYS & MEANS AND RAFFLE ITEMS: HELPFUL GUIDELINES FOR DISTRICT MEETINGS

We are including this helpful chart again to help you with planning and preparing your 2018 Yearbook and for planning your participation for the upcoming meetings.

Ways & Means

Items clean and gently used, no clothes, and PRICED AT HOME BEFORE THE MEETING. Please remember to take home items left over. Marie Muller is the contact person: email: bearly@midtel.net or phone: 518-295-8698.

Raffle Items

\$25 value, new items, wrapped nicely in a bag or basket. Camille McComb is the contact person: email: cpmccomb@yahoo.com or phone: 518-378-2480.

Chart for District Meetings

This handy chart shows the dates of when your club will be responsible for providing either the Ways & Means items or for securing the Raffle bags/baskets.

Date	Ways & Means	Raffle Items
Spring 2018	Ulster Co. GCs & Board	Columbia Co. GCs
Fall 2018	Schenectady & Rensselaer	Ulster Co. GCs
Spring 2019	Greene/Schoharie & Board	Rensselaer & Board
Fall 2019	Albany & Columbia GCs	Greene/Schoharie
Spring 2020	Dutchess Co. GC	Schenectady Co. GCs
Fall 2020	Ulster Co. GCs	Columbia Co. GCs
Spring 2021	Columbia Co. GCs & Board	Albany Co. GCs
Fall 2021	Schenectady & Rensselaer	Dutchess & Board

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.

