

# The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



NOVEMBER 2022

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## From the Board



Greetings Everyone.

It's November, where did the summer go? Much to my surprise, my perennial garden has continued to provide blooms well into late fall and I've savored every one of them. This year the fall colors were beautiful, vibrant gold, red, and orange leaves. I enjoy seeing the festive chrysanthemums in yellow and deep burgundy and pumpkins on everyone's doorstep. Now, Thanksgiving is upon us and we look forward to the upcoming Holiday season.

Our gardens are being put to bed for another year. I still have a few perennials to cut back and mulch in and my raised rose bed still needs to be covered. I have a special process of covering the base of my rose bushes to protect them from the harshness of the winter months. I save all the soil from my summer potted plants and mound it around each rose bush to cover the base and branches up to about 9 inches. The one year I didn't do this I lost five of my six rose bushes! So now I make sure it is done before the snow flies. I actually had roses blooming right up to our first hard frost a week or so ago. We really are blessed with the four seasons. They are all so different. I look forward to each with great anticipation.

I hope everyone that attended the fall District meeting enjoyed their day. Our fall meeting, titled "Every Garden Picture Tells a Story", was held October 20th at the Best Western Plus in Kingston. It featured a presentation by Lori Adams, a local photographer from Hopewell Junction. She gave a very informative session on how to photograph plants and animals in their natural environment. Those who attended also enjoyed

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## 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



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visiting three vendors, a variety of raffle baskets, the ways and means table, and exhibits. Thank you to Saugerties Society of Little Gardens for providing the table centerpieces. They were beautiful arrangements of fall mums and dried hydrangeas. The one I purchased lasted over three weeks! Thank you to the Germantown Garden Club for coordinating the raffle benefit table. There were 17 raffle items provided by a variety of our District clubs. Thank you to everyone who donated a raffle item. Thank you also to the Ulster County clubs for coordinating the Ways and Means table and to Elizabeth Walker and Merrill-Lee Lenegar for the educational exhibits.

Our Spring District Meeting will be held Thursday, April 20, 2023. Kaye Vosburgh, a past District III Director will be our speaker. She will do a presentation on "Ikebana", the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Kaye currently lives in the Boston area and teaches Ikebana at Schenectady Community College once a month. She is very excited about returning and seeing her friends at District III. I look forward to seeing many of you again at our Spring meeting.

Until then...have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Kris Vogt, Second Assistant Director

## NEW OFFICERS

We recently held elections for a new District Director and executive board.

Gary Barrack has graciously agreed to be our Director for a second time. Maureen McNamara, Albany County Chair, will be our new 1st Assistant Director. Joan Robinson will continue as our Recording Secretary and Marie Celeste will continue as our Treasurer. Carol Demicco will be pulling double duty as our new Corresponding Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. Congratulations to all of them!

The 2nd Assistant Director position is currently vacant. This position shares responsibilities with the 1st Assistant Director in planning the Spring and Fall District meetings. If you like to plan a party perhaps you would be interested in running for this District office.

## World Gardening

*Marie Celeste,  
World Gardening Chairperson*

Thank you clubs for collecting funds for two important endeavors at each of your meetings.

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State continues to support Water for South Sudan ([www.waterforsouthsudan.org](http://www.waterforsouthsudan.org)) and also additionally supports The Navajo Water Project ([www.digdeep.org](http://www.digdeep.org)).

Clubs and individuals are asked to forward their donations to me at: Marie Celeste, 39 Donegal Ave, Troy NY 12180.

Please make checks payable to: Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc., or simply FGCNYS with the project you wish to support noted in the memo line. Donations not specifying a specific project will go to Digdeep, the Navajo Water Project.

We need your checks by the end of December.

Thank you, Garden Clubs, for your donations to these wonderful Water Projects.







## FALL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: **Every Garden Picture Tells a Story**

**OCTOBER 20, 2022**

On October 20, 2022, 60 members representing 12 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 the Columbia County Club—Germantown plus individual members and clubs who helped provide so many great baskets. We had fun shopping the Ways and Means table provided by Ulster County Garden Clubs plus our Vendors. Many awards were presented including Citations from the Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Following lunch, we watched an inspiring presentation from photographer Lori Adams on how to photograph your gardens and horticulture. It's all about the light!





## GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

For over ninety years the Germantown Garden Club has held a flower show. This year the theme for this year's Standard Flower Show was 'Nature's Best.' The show was held at the Kellner Youth and Activity Building in Germantown. Six accredited flower show judges viewed 24 entries in the Design Division and 100 entries in the Horticulture Division.

The top horticulture awards went to: The Award of Horticulture Excellence: Christina Bohnsack; Arboreal Award: Triona Fritsch; additional Awards of Merit went to: Christina Bohnsack, Barbara Campbell, Triona Fritsch, and Irene Clum. Twenty-eight entries took a first-place award.

In the Design Division the top awards went to: The Award of Design Excellence: Andrea DiPace; the Tricolor Award: Andrea DiPace; and the Designer's Choice Award: Pat Byron

### Interesting Workshop

The Germantown Garden Club recently held a workshop which featured a program combining plant material and an art form. Garden club member Triona Fritsch demonstrated 'cyanotypes' which combines the art of dying fresh plant material to create printed fabrics. This process includes the use of the sun to transfer the image of plant material to 'dye' pretreated fabric. The attendees were treated to what seemed like magic to watch the fabric when placed in the sun outdoors as it changed color leaving behind the



*Germantown Garden Club's 2022 Flower Show's theme was "Nature's Best." Left shows the Award of Design Excellence winning design entry which went to club member Andrea DiPace for her Tubular Design entry in the "Onward and Upward" category.*

image of the plant material. Triona also gave a tutorial on how to preserve fresh plant material by drying.

### Garden Therapy

In celebration of Thanksgiving, members Caroline DiMauro and Maureen Lockwood held a workshop with the residents of Livingston Hills Nursing Center. They made painted jars in fall colors and filled them with leaves, twigs, and flowers provided by the Germantown Garden Club.

### Learning About Herbal Medicine

At our November meeting, Aviva Skye Tillson owner of Apis Apotheca, gave a very informative talk titled "All About Botanicals." She talked about the benefits of commonly found plants in our own gardens and local landscapes. Apis Apotheca is a local herbal skin care company which was founded by farmers, herbalists, and educators. The club learned what benefits can be derived from different herbs and how to use them.

The club held an election of officers for 2023: Elected were: President Fran Bufi, Vice-President, Maureen Lockwood, Corresponding Secretary, Kate Kennedy, Recording Secretary, Elke Crane and Treasurer, Joyce Vale. The Germantown Garden Club's program for 2023 is in the planning stages.

*Above left: Germantown Garden Club Member Triona Fritsch with 'cyanotype' sample.*

*Left: Member Caroline DiMauro demonstrates a fall flower arrangement to the residents of Livingston Hills Nursing Center.*





## GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Maureen McNamra and John Haluska

Our August meeting was held at the Emma Treadwell Nature Center in Thatcher Park. The program was a presentation by Marina Dreeben, environmental education intern, NYS Office of Parks and Recreation. Ms. Dreeben gave a presentation on bald eagles followed by a walking/hiking tour to view an eagle's nest near Thompson Lake.

We learned some interesting facts about Bald Eagles, our nation's symbol:

- Once close to extinction due to the use of pesticides (DDT) following World War 2, eagles are now thriving and no longer an endangered species.
- Nests, high in trees, are 6 ft W x 6 ft H. Nests are used during breeding season only. Eagles return to the same nests in December to make necessary repairs for the next breeding season.



- Fish in Thompson's Lake and the Hudson River is the primary food source.
- Eagles are not snow birds! They winter in NY
- Male wing span is 6 feet. Female wing span is 8 feet.

Thompson's Lake in rural Albany County is home to a mated pair of Bald Eagles. Eagles mate for life, breed once a year—hatching two eggs in early Spring. The eaglets remain in the nest for two months until they fledge. By 4 months (mid-to-late August) the fledglings leave the area and wander for 5 years before returning to the area, but do not encroach on other eagles' territory—keeping within a 1-6 mile radius.

A short walk to the nest viewing area found no one at home... the fledglings had already left town and the parents were fishing. Better luck next year!

We also learned about other programs that the Nature Center offers throughout the year. This was an enjoyable mini-field trip and so close to our home base!



*Top Left: Looking for eagles in Thatcher Park.*

*Bottom Left: Our Garden Club Exhibit at the Altamont Fair. We are back after two years off due to covid.*

*Above: A recent field trip took the Guilderland Garden Club to the Berkshire Bird Sanctuary. One of the several outings the club has enjoyed this year. Mr. Peter Dubaucher, who owns the Berkshire Bird Paradise Sanctuary is in the photo as well as his dog, Peaches.*



## NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Margaret McDowell, President

We have had an active Fall. In October we had a visit to Mohonk Preserve. The Preserve is a site and preserved land adjacent to the Mohonk Mountain House. The tour was led by Gretchen Reed, Director of Marketing for the Preserve. She provided a guided walk on the sensory trail and spoke of the various trees and plants along the trail. Also, she spoke of the Green Roof attached to the Visitor's Center which is made of permeable pavers with a xeriscape of sedum that has presently been invaded by stilt grass. Her volunteers are working to remove that grass.

Director Kevin Case, gave us an overview of the Preserve. The Mohonk Preserve was founded almost 60 years ago with the help of the Smiley Family of the Mohonk Mountain House. The Preserve serves over 100,000 visitors a year for hiking, biking, climbing, swimming, education, birding, and other access to the land. Additionally, they support many volunteers to keep the trails safe and accessible. Volunteer gardeners have installed butterfly gardens and

other native gardens throughout the Preserve. The visit and talk went well and we hope to be back to learn of the Preserve Conservation Program.

Also in October three of our members attended the District Conference Day. We all found the day most inspiring, enjoyable, and informative.

For November we were very thrilled to have Tammy Feuer, one of our members, present a flower arrangement class that resulted in a Thanksgiving Centerpiece for members' homes. For December we will have a Holiday Pot Luck Party with gift exchange and a craft demonstration for a decoration that a member can use for the holidays and/or as a gift to a local nursing home resident.

We are working on next year's programs and hope to have a mix of field trips, nature/garden talks and hands-on demonstrations.

Wishing everyone a very safe and Happy Holiday Season.



*Above: Members display the final results of their Thanksgiving Centerpieces.*

*Right: We had a great time making them.*





## THE COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB OF MARLBOROUGH

ULSTER COUNTY

by Jean DiNapoli

Members of the Community Garden Club of Marlborough created all of the flower arrangements for each table at the Poughkeepsie Grand for the FGCNYS Annual Convention.

In May we made floral picture holders for the Meals on Wheels recipients in the Town of Newburgh.

At the end of May, a plant and white elephant sale was held at the Balmville Grange.

We enjoyed a trip to the Orange County Arboretum in August.

In September we had our first meeting at the historic and beautiful Desmond Center. The Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation for the Town of Newburgh asked us to be a part of recreating Alice Desmond's gardens from the 1930s.



*Top Right: Our first meeting of the year at the Desmond Center.*

*Bottom Right: Our floral picture holder for Meals on Wheels.*

*Top Left: Making arrangements for the Annual Conference.*

*Bottom Left: Visiting the Orange County Arboretum.*



## TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack

The Tioronda Garden Club had unprecedented growth in membership this year with a total of 18 new members for 2022.

In August, the club went on a field trip to the Wethersfield Estate and Gardens in Amenia, NY. Wethersfield is billed as the finest classical garden in the United States, built in the second half of the 20th century by noted philanthropist Chauncey Stillman, former CEO of Citibank.

The club held its annual fall mum sale in September. Over 280 large mums were sold, raising just over \$1,500 to fund the club's yearly activities.

In November, members decorated the Howland Cultural Center for the holiday season. Constructed in 1872 by famed architect Richard Morris Hunt, it is home to the Tioronda Garden Club. Members also decorated the historic Madam Brett Homestead. Built in 1709, it is the oldest house in Dutchess County, now owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The December meeting will close out the year with "Santa's Holiday Decorating Workshop," along with the club's annual Christmas cocktail party.



*Top Right: Members enjoying the guided tour at the beautiful Wethersfield Gardens in Amenia.*

*Center: Members Donna Way and Carol Dimicco coordinate the sale of over 280 mums for the annual Fall mum sale.*

*Bottom: "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" as Nicole Vodrazka, Helen Lang, and Debbie Scofield assist in preparing wreaths for the Main Street Lamp posts.*

*Left: Gary Barrack and Norman MacLeod clean up for fall at the Beacon Welcome Center garden.*



# "WOODLAND WONDERLAND"



Schoharie Valley Garden Club Annual Holiday Luncheon & Boutique!



**Wednesday, December 7th, 2022**  
**"Sablewood" at Highview Springs Farm**



(5038 State Route 30, Schoharie, New York, [www.TheSablewood.com](http://www.TheSablewood.com))

10:45 till Noon: Registration & Shopping

12 Noon: Luncheon catered by Bull's Head Inn of Cobleskill

1:30: Program – Holiday Floral Design by Michelle Peters

## Start Your Christmas Shopping Early at our Holiday Boutique!

In addition to our traditional "Benefit" and "Ways & Means" tables, we welcome vendors:

**Shops Open**  
**10:45**  
**(Bring Shopping Bag)**

Lori Davis:	"Empty Pockets Ranch" Candles, Personal Care & Pantry Items
Ann Hein:	Bird and Bee Homes - Kiwanis made
Cheryl Jones:	"Cool Beads" Handcrafted Bead & Stone Jewelry
Deborah LaBombard:	Stunning Fashions, Handbags and Accessories
Susan Wissick:	"Fiber Art and Stitchery" Quilts, alpaca products and more

Reservation & Payment DUE by Friday, December 2, 2022

**\$35 payable to: Schoharie Valley Garden Club**

Complete this form & **mail with payment** to: Anne Bielawski, 103 Strawberry Lane, Schoharie, NY 12157 (Phone: 518-295-8809)

**All seating reserved. If coming in a group of 2 or more & plan to sit together you must register together:**

Group Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

All Names in Group \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**If coming as an individual:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



## GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Carole Garvar, Chair

### Athens Community Garden Club

Athens Community Garden Club is celebrating 81 years in 2022. Most members are Athens residents, but a growing number have joined from surrounding areas. Six new members joined this year bringing the total to fifty active members and an additional three honorary members. The club meets on the third Thursday of every month January or February thru December.

The club plants and maintains gardens in five public spaces and assists in the maintenances of gardens in the village park and at senior housing.

Other activities include the following:

- Youth Projects: Education of students at E.J. Arthur Elementary School grades K through four with lessons on environmentally related topics.
- Annual Poetry Contest: Students K through grade four who participate in the program each receives a prize. The club publishes a book of poems for first place winners. Both of these programs are highly valued by the educators of this school, and have been ongoing for eighteen years.
- Annual Landscape and Garden Recognition Awards: Three residents receive a prize for their efforts to beautify the community. An article and picture of the gardens are submitted to local newspapers.
- Holiday decorating: Members make sprays and garlands to decorate entry signs to the village as well as other public spaces.
- Yearly donation to Penny Pines to reforest areas that have been damaged by fire, floods or other catastrophic events.
- Community Outreach: Donations to Athens Food Pantry and Catskill Women's Shelter.

- Scholarship to a graduating high school student
- Participation in Athens Community Day: Distribution and information regarding clubs' purposes as well as giving small plants to attendees.
- Bake sale held every year on Athens Garage Sale Day. Home baked goods always sell out.
- Holiday Auction held in November. Live Auction-featuring beautiful baskets, homemade baked goods, and many other interesting items. Our talented auctioneer does a masterful job. In addition, there is also a Silent Auction. This is the club's major fundraising event, open to members of all garden clubs as well as the public. It is a wonderful opportunity for holiday gift purchases.

For information contact President Laura Erwig, 518 444-8279, or Lamke1216@aol.com.

### Clematis Garden Club

Clematis Garden Club, founded 1940, federated 1961, celebrating 82 years. Membership grew from 37 to 40 with 3 new members added this year. Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month.

This club includes the communities of Greeneville, Preston Hollow, East Durham, Oak Hill, Coeymans Hollow, and Lily Park in Schoharie.

Projects and activities include maintaining landscaping at two Blue Star Memorial Parks located in Greenville and Coeymans Hollow. Garden books are donated to the Greeneville Public Library in memory of deceased members. Members work with community and civic groups on projects including landscape design, planting and maintaining of gardens in public locations in the communities mentioned above.







Other activities include the following:

- Garden of the Month Awards: June through September.
- Garden Exchange Table: at each meeting magazines including baskets, pots, plants, cuttings, bulbs, and flower arrangements to pass onto members.
- May—Spring Social featuring a renowned speaker and auction. This event is always very well attended by other clubs and community members.
- June—Annual Plant Sale and White Elephant Sale of Collectables and Antiques held at GNH Plaza in Greenville. This event is not to be missed. Members start early in the year growing plants for this sale. They are far superior to plants available in many commercial locations. This is the club's major fundraiser and has a growing number of people attending each year. Put it on your calendar for the first Saturday of the month.
- Scholarship Horticulture award presented to a graduating high school senior.
- November—The club will sponsor a Christmas tree at the Gazebo by the pond in Greeneville.
- December—A collection of gifts for nursing home residents.

For more information on this club contact President Terry Buel 518-424-9000 or [mountainview@verizon.net](mailto:mountainview@verizon.net)

### **Schoharie Valley Garden Club**

Schoharie Valley Garden Club, founded in May of 1947, celebrated its 75th anniversary this year. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month from March through December.

The club covers a vast area including Cobleskill, Richmondville, Gilboa, Middleburgh, Esperance, Central Bridge and Schoharie. One of these areas receives a “Garden of the Month Award” in May through September, with a certificate of recognition and a photo.

The club's community gardening projects include spring plantings at public facilities at the Middleburgh Art Park, Schoharie Lily Park, Schoharie Library, Old Stone Fort, and Covered Bridge.

Other activities include the following:

- Garden Therapy promoting garden activities with the elderly and disabled.
- A Scholarship Grant for one week attendance at a summer camp.
- Festival of Trees decorating a Christmas tree display at NY Power Authority in Gilboa.
- Flower Show and Tea in June at the Schoharie Library
- Garage Plant and Bake Sale in September
- Creating mini arrangements for Home delivered meals.
- The club also supports the local food pantry and animal shelter.

Their Holiday Luncheon and Boutique: Winter Wonderland takes place on December 7, 2022. See flyer in this issue. This event is always sold out so make reservations early.

The club added one member this year with 18 active and two honorary members.

For more information on this club, contact President Sue Grupinski at 518 827-7014 or [wings@midtel.net](mailto:wings@midtel.net)



# Clubs' Calendar 2022-23

## **December 3-4, 2022**

*Germantown Garden Club Christmas Market*  
The First Reformed Church Parsonage  
52 Maple Avenue, Germantown, NY

## **December 7, 2022**

*Schoharie Valley Garden Club Annual  
Holiday Luncheon and Boutique*  
Sablewood, at Highview Farm  
5038 Route 30, Schoharie, NY

## **April 20, 2023**

*District III Spring Meeting*  
Polish Community Center  
22 Washington Ave, Ext. Albany

## **May 2-5, 2023**

*NGC Convention*  
White Sulphur Springs, WV

## PARTING SHOT



Members of the Guilderland Garden Club won the most raffle baskets at our Fall District Meeting in October. It was amazing to see how many of their members were winners! They were definately in it to win it.

*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](mailto:kjanson@aol.com).

To access *The Digest*, go to the State website—[fgcnys.com](http://fgcnys.com)—select District III on the home page and then select Digest Online.

