

# The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



AUGUST 2024

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## From the Director



As summer winds down, I hope you have taken time to relax and enjoy your gardens with family and friends. As Fall approaches, our First Assistant Director Maureen McNamara and Second Assistant Cynthia Teator are diligently working to finalize plans for our Annual Fall District meeting which will take place on Thursday, October 17 at the Best Western Hotel in Kingston, NY. Registration information can be found on pages 3, 13, and 14. We are incorporating suggestions that were made

at our Spring meeting to make your experience a more enjoyable one. Our New York State President Donna Sessa has been invited to attend and she is looking forward to meeting all the wonderful members of the Third District. The Fall meeting is always exciting, as it is when we present the many awards that our clubs have received during the past year.

Also at this meeting, the election of District officers for the 2025-2026 term of office will take place. I have appointed our former District Director Kris Vogt to chair the Nominations and Elections Committee. Kris and her committee will be soliciting qualified members to serve on the board for the positions of District Director, First and Second Assistant Directors, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Assistant Treasurer. I encourage you to consider this rewarding experience by serving as an officer of the Third District Executive Board.

We also have vacant positions on the Board of Directors that are filled by appointment. They include Parliamentarian, Awards Chairman, and Assistant Chairman for Ulster County. Please contact me if you are interested and we can discuss the duties and responsibility of these positions. It is an easy and excellent way to serve on the Board of Directors. We currently have 14 clubs in our District, so the duties will require a minimal amount of your time.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Kingston for our FALL! FOLIAGE, FLOWERS, AND FRIENDS District meeting.

Take care,  
Gary Barrack, Director

## 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

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



# What Has Your Club Been Up To?

*By Merrill-Lee Lenegar, Publicity Chair*

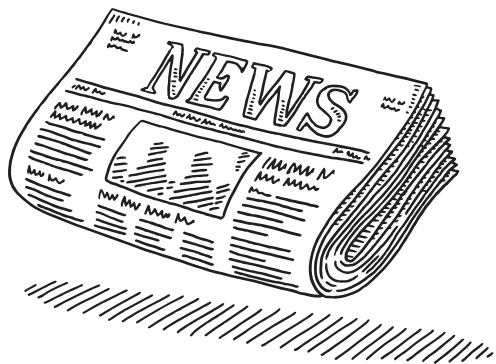
It's time to get ready for our October 17 District Meeting at Best Western Plus in Kingston. I am sure that the clubs will want to see what has occurred since our last meeting. Club members love to see what others have done. Many clubs are inspired by what they see. To share your accomplishments, please send me a copy, or the original, of the information that was published about your events. Your information will be available at the October meeting for club members to review.

Please send me your information by October 10. You may include newspaper articles, flyers used to publicize your event, or other notices that you used. I look forward to hearing from you, so please send your information to me:

Merril-Lee Lenegar  
9 Cornell Avenue  
Albany, NY 12203

If you have questions, please contact me at [merlenegar@gmail.com](mailto:merlenegar@gmail.com).

I look forward to receiving your information.



## *Happy Anniversary!*

To the **Saugerties Society of Little Gardens** on their Hundred Year Anniversary! They're planning a special event, to be held at the Saugerties American Legion on September 18. Congratulations!



## IN MEMORIAM

**Antoinette Babb**, former Third District Director, Board member, Parliamentarian, friend, and long-time member of the Saugerties Society of Little GCs died peacefully on June 1, 2024. Antoinette contributed and enriched Saugerties Society of Little Gardens through her ever constant presence and participation in all club activities. Besides serving as a president and additional offices, Antoinette's knowledge and experience as a parliamentarian, guided the club's decision process. Above all, her willingness to share her knowledge and expertise in flower arrangement and flower shows, with the club and all who expressed an interest, were a testament to her generosity and kindness. Her presence is greatly missed.



## FALL DISTRICT MEETING:

# *Fall! Foliage, Flowers, & Friends*

Gary Barrack, Director

Third District Board of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.

Cordially invites you to the Fall District Meeting

**OCTOBER 17, 2024**

Best Western Plus, 503 Washington Ave., Kingston, NY, 845-338-0400

**REGISTRATION:** 9–11:30 a.m.

**BREAKFAST BAR:** upon arrival. Coffee, tea, juices, Danish, and bagels

**VENDORS, EXHIBITS, COFFEE, TEA, AND WATER STATION:** throughout the day

**FUND RAISING AND RAFFLE TABLES:**  
9 a.m.–noon

**BUSINESS MEETING:** 10–11:15 a.m.

**LUNCHEON:** 12:15 p.m. \$42

**Menu:** Choices are: Chicken Francaise OR Filet of Flounder with Lemon Caper Sauce. Served with Butternut Squash Soup, Whipped Parmesan Potatoes, Fresh Mixed Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, and Carrot Cake. To drink: Iced or Hot Tea, Coffee or Decaf.

**RAFFLE DRAWING:** 12:45 p.m.

**RESERVATIONS:** PREPAID AND RECEIVED BY SEPT. 30. Please allow sufficient time for mail delivery. Send Registration Form with attendees' name and menu choice with one check made out to: Third District, FGCNYS, Inc.  
Mail to: Lorna Silinovich, Registrar;  
PO Box 726, Saugerties, NY 12477.  
ralphswoman72@yahoo.com or 518-947-6286

**DIRECTIONS:** I-87 (Thruway) south and north to Exit 19. Follow traffic circle (rotary) to Washington Ave. Hotel is on right, watch for sign!

**PROGRAM:** 1–2 p.m.  
**Seasonal Floral Designs—  
Dorothy "Dot" Chenevert**

Dot Chenevert, AIFD has been a flower lover most of her life... starting with picking a few flowers from her neighbors when she was about 8. While she has worked in many shops, she owned the Green Oak Florist in Hyde Park for 30 years. During this time, she became an accredited member of AIFD (American Institute of Floral Design). There are only about 1,300 members worldwide and it requires continuous learning and participation. She was recently sworn in as president of the North East Chapter of AIFD which includes all of New England, part of Canada, Great Britain, and Europe. (Not that she gets to go to all these places.)

Since selling The Green Oak Florist in 2011, she again worked in many shops most recently at Peony Design Studio in Pleasant Valley. This is a florist much like her own was.... Believing in Good Service, Good Product, and Good Design. (It's not rocket science.)

She also serves as president of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce, manages Paul's Hyde Park Farmers Market, and has a Guest House (The Greener Oak Guest House) in her home.

## NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

*by Margaret McDowell, President*

Hope everyone has been enjoying the Summer—even with our record-breaking temps. It seems most gardens are thriving.

We wrapped up our year with two garden tours. Our June tour was hosted by a soon to be member—her garden featured an extensive rock garden—one she created by lovingly moving and carefully placing all her rocks throughout the garden space. She described it as a labor of love in memory of her Mother. She has been working on it for many years. All members brought desserts and we all had a chance to socialize and share garden tips. Many members also picked beautifully displayed flowers from their gardens and we auctioned them off. Monies went to an annual scholarship fund. Our scholarship winner for this year sent us a lovely note, she will be attending college in Vermont for environmental studies.

In July, another member opened her garden to our members. She has a great extensive back garden that she and her husband are working on. It includes many decorative grasses, beautiful blooming bushes, along with perennials, annuals, and artfully displayed planters. She made a wonderful dinner for us and all members enjoyed their time together.

This Fall (September) we will visit Mohonk Gardens and Greenhouse for a special tour of their annual plantings. In

October we will hopefully visit Wildflower Farms, a newly built local resort that maintains a Wildflower Greenhouse that decorates its resort year-round with those flowers.

Wish everyone a wonderful end of Summer and hope to see you at our District meeting in October.



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## ATHENS COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

*by Steven Mann President*

On Thursday, November 21, 2024, the Athens Community Garden Club will have its annual charity auction/luncheon at Pegasus Restaurant on Route 9W in Coxsackie, NY. Details are still being formed, however to be put on a list to receive information once finalized, please email Steven Mann at [stevensmann@gmail.com](mailto:stevensmann@gmail.com) and we will get it to you. Many of you from other clubs have attended this fun event in the past and enjoyed a great afternoon. The club uses proceeds to help fund its annual beautification, education, and other community projects.



## GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

At our May meeting, speaker Barbara Hughey presented a program on common invasives in our area, how to control invasives, and the reason to do so. Her sideshow featured examples of invasives that will not support wildlife and some that can actually poison the soil for other natives. Barbara is a self-employed land steward consultant, with a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University, has an advanced Certificate in Herbal Studies, and Hudsonia Biodiversity training. She explained that Columbia County is a member of the state's Capital Mohawk Region of Prism. Funded by the Real Estate Transfer Tax Prism stands for 'Practices for Priority Invasive Species Management.'

The meeting included a discussion of the club's upcoming annual plant sale and the annual flower show in September.

As part of our commitment to the community, our club supports our local library. That commitment began in the early 1900's with a small group of garden club members and an exchange of gardening books. As the years progressed, so did the number of books in our collection. As the collection grew so did the need for a space to house these books. And so began what is now the Germantown Library. Each year the club supports the library with a monetary donation toward the library's operating expenses and a donation of a gardening book to add to the library's gardening section. With these donations the garden club also contributes subscriptions of *Horticulture* and *Cricket* magazines. For 2024, the gift to the library was a set of children's books titled: *Network with Nature*, *The Saved Seed*, and the *Frightened Frog*.



Above: Pictured left to right: Maureen Lockwood, vice-President GGC, Pat Byron, Recording Secretary, GGC, Irene Clum, President GGC, Lynn Place, Germantown Librarian.

Right: Barbara Hughey speaker at GGC.



## GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Linda Miller

The Guilderland Garden Club had their yearly community service day at Our Lady of Mercy Nursing Home in Guilderland. Many of our members participated by helping to clean, weed, and plant herbs and flowers in the raised beds in their courtyard. The Club members then welcomed many residents who made their own arrangement to bring to their rooms. Thanks to all the members and the program coordinators, Maureen McNamara and Sandy Mason. It was such a wonderful day for all.

The members of the Club were given a wonderful tour of the gardens and greenhouses at the Guilderland High School Gardens. Club members presented a check to the students, teachers, and staff members for \$200 to help with this wonderful program to educate students on the importance of gardening.

The Club's yearly monetary donations were made to the Altamont and Guilderland Food Pantries. Members will be participating in the Guilderland Food Pantry's upcoming fund raiser to be held in September.

In June, members of the Club went to the Gade Farm in Guilderland for a presentation provided by Amy Castillo on "Gardening for Smaller Areas and Containers." After the program, members created their own planter with herbs and annuals to take home.

Our July presentation was on Shade Gardening by Judith Fetterly, Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener. This program was open to the public.

Ann Trolenberg, Guilderland Garden Club Scholarship Chairperson, presented the 2024 scholarship award check to Nora Biega a Guilderland High School Senior. Nora plans to attend Tufts University this fall to study Environmental Engineering.



Top: The Club had their yearly community service day at Our Lady of Mercy Nursing Home in Guilderland. Members pictured left–right: Carol Samsonoff, Liz Medvetz, Linda Miller, Maureen McNamara, Delia Gunning, Sandy Mason, Jean Goldstein, and Theresa Fynmore-Rafferty. Members not in photo: Susan Cole, Jean Dearstyne, Kathy Perrego, and Nancy Stahl.

Middle left: Check presentation to Guilderland High School for their garden and greenhouse program.

Middle right: Club member Craig Waltz, wins 3rd prize for his "S" Design at the annual 2024 Newport, RI Flower Show.

Above: Members visit Gade Farm for a presentation on "Gardening for Smaller Areas and Containers."

## CLEMATIS GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

*by Jean Horn*

Our Clematis Garden Club, Greenville, on 7/19, spent a fun and educational day visiting Laraway's Rescue Center for both domestic and wild animals in Middleburg run completely by volunteers. Marie Hennings, our past long time Treasurer, pictured patiently petting some of the animals.

Later, we had a delicious lunch at Middle Village Pasta and Grill.

*Marie Hennings petting animals at Laraway's Rescue Center*



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## SAUGERTIES SOCIETY OF LITTLE GARDENS

ULSTER COUNTY

*by Dale Winchester*

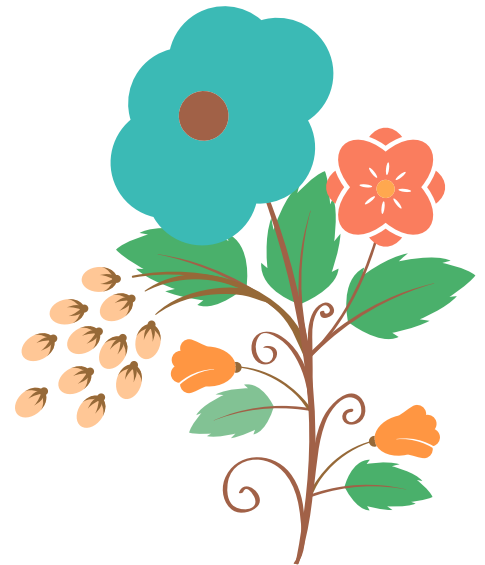
The club had their annual plant and bake sale on May 18, at the Big Lots in Saugerties. The sale was quite successful. It was a beautiful day and we enjoyed the event.

On June 12, we held our annual picnic. Colleen Fabiano graciously hosted the picnic at her home. Despite the poor weather we all enjoyed the event and sumptuous food.

On June 18, the club sponsored a presentation by Ellen Kalish of Ravens Beard Wildlife Rehab Center at the Saugerties Public library. Ellen's presentation included raptors, whose circumstance doesn't allow for them to be released back to the wild. Her presentation was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by young and old alike.

On the 28th of June the club visited the Catskill Mountain Lavender farm in Saugerties. Earlier in the year we had sponsored a presentation on Lavender by the farm owners Christine Tomaino and her sister. Our visit enabled us to see the different varieties they cultivate and learn about their challenges and rewards.

The club is in the process of planning our Hundred Year Anniversary event, to be held at the Saugerties American Legion on September 18.



## SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Sue Grupinski, President

The Schoharie Valley Garden gals have been quite the busy bees in our Club this Summer! We start the warm month of June with a very unique class on how to paint resin flower pots at the Gathering Place in Cobleskill. Using our imagination, we put paint colors together. It was such fun and amazing how our pots turned out as you can see!

Arts in Bloom Festival at The Schoharie Library was a lovely time for all to come out to see what incredible local artists are creating. We had quilts and floral arrangements inside the library that complement each other! If you have not been, you should not miss this event in 2025.

In July, we had a field trip and educational talk at Slate Hill Lavender Farm located in Sharon Springs. They spoke about how they began their journey, how they take care of the lavender, what we can do in our own gardens to grow, trim, dry, and have our lavender flourish, so very informative! It was time to go into the lavender fields to cut ours to take home, then on to the adorable gift shop to bundle up our lavender and to make other purchases. Which included different mixes to bake scones, shortbread cookies, everything lavender, etc. It was a beautiful day to have a picnic lunch among the lavender fields. The fragrance was lovely!

Lily Park Festival located in Schoharie was great! The weather couldn't have been better. It was such fun for our members to meet new people that wanted to start gardens, some adding to their gardens, asking about plants, and the knowledge we could give them such as wanting to know about what our club does for the community. We might even welcome potential new members to our Garden Club!

For our August field trip, we toured Brookwood Gardens in Cooperstown, then on to have a tour and educational talk at the new CCE gardens, it was great. Then on to Origins Restaurant and Greenhouses, it was quite a unique experience to end the day!

September will be a workshop on making around 200 small arrangements for Schoharie County home-delivered meals.

September 21st we will be joining in on the Schoharie town wide yard sales. It takes place from 9am.-3pm, Bridge Street, Schoharie (yard sale, plant, and bake sale).

October: we will have a presentation "Bluebirds in Your Backyard" by Kevin Berner of NYS Bluebird Society.

December 4th Holiday Luncheon & Boutique: "Dreaming of a White Christmas" Noon-4:00pm, more information to come.



*Top left: Lavender Fields: beautiful day in the lavender fields!*

*Top right: Origins Restaurant and Green house. What a unique experience with great food!*

*Middle left: This was an educational trip, owner Phyllis Camilleri on her peony farm. It was beautiful!*

*Middle right: Members painting resin flower pots.*

*Above: Beautiful day at Brookwood Gardens!*



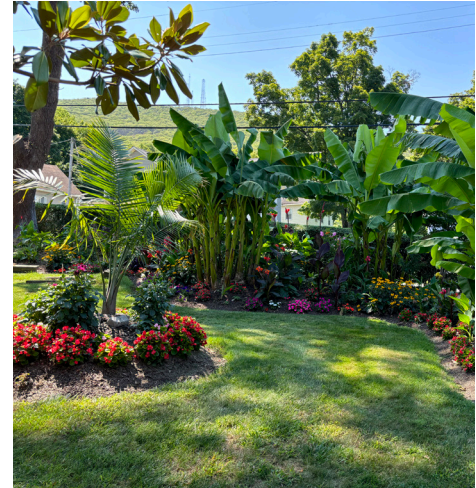
## TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack, County Chairman

The Tioronda Garden Club held its 2nd Annual “Secret Gardens of Beacon” Tour in June. Residents and members opened their gardens to the public on a beautiful June afternoon. The fund raiser was a success both in monetary terms and the publicity that the club generated. An August field trip is planned for the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming in Cold Spring, NY. The club returns to their regular meeting schedule in September with a presentation by Joseph Gizzarelli of Devitt’s Nursery in Newburgh. His topic is “Dividing Perennials, Transplanting in the Fall.”

On September 17, the club will holds its annual Autumn Mum Sale on the grounds of the historic Madam Brett Homestead, chaired by our District Corresponding Secretary and Assistant Treasurer Carol Demicco.



*Top left and right: Tropical Gardens of member James Bell showcased at our Secret Garden of Beacon tour.*

*Above: Members clean-up, trim, and mulch the gardens of the historic Howland Cultural Center, home of the Tioronda Garden Club.*

*Left: One of the many large flower planters along Main St. sponsored and maintained by the Tioronda Garden Club.*



## SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Sophia Browne

Catching up with our past and future events this year.

We were fortunate to see a glimpse of the eclipse in April while attending our monthly meeting.

In May, we had our annual Mother's Day plant sale at the Hunt Building in Ellenville. By noon, most plants were gone. Always a success!

Our June meeting was at Lippman Park for our annual plant exchange and soil testing (new this year). The pizzas are always a hit. In June, we had our Club Luncheon at Pasta D'Oro in Wurtsboro. Luncheon gifts were wind chimes.

June is also our month to present our scholarship awards of \$1,000 to deserving seniors in the area schools.

We all enjoyed our July meeting at earth friendly sustainable gardening at Renee's house in Napanoch. Our hosts and speakers were Renee and Lee.

Our August meeting was dedicated to final details pertaining to our participation in the Ellenville Blueberry Festival on August 10. Our members are sprucing up the village planters and plant areas. We have two tents at the festival entrance and sell plants, flowers, quilted items, bird houses, and other handmade items. We meet and greet folks and perhaps perspective new members.

A trip to Story's Neversink Plant Company is scheduled for August 15.

September's Meeting is about growing orchids. Our member and president of the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society will be one of our speakers.

Besides these events, our Club participates in Adopt A Highway and local monthly food pantries. We award school scholarships, take care of plants at Ellenville Regional Hospital as well as trimming all the village planters and store fronts. We are proud to contribute to Dig Deep Navajo Indian Water Project monthly.



*Top: Clean up at Liberty Square, home of The Boy with the Boot statue.*

*Middle: Our July meeting was held at Renee's House in Napanoch. The subject of the talk was earth friendly sustainable gardening.*

*Left: Sue Harris, President, and Lillian Green, Treasurer.*

# How to Collect and Save Milkweed Seeds Directly from the Pods

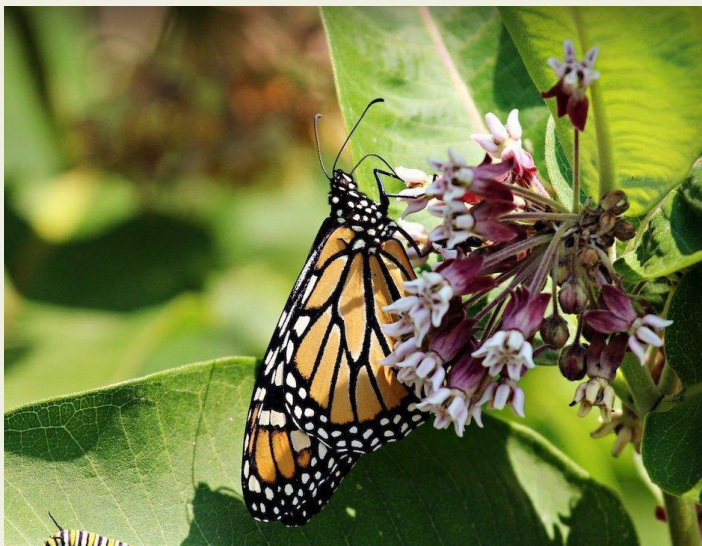
*by Jean Horn, Wildflower Committee Chair*

In the late Summer/Fall when milkweed pods begin to burst open, place a small paper bag over the pod while still on the milkweed plant and secure with a string.

The collected seeds can be stored and planted in the Spring, however, there are several steps to go through so that they will germinate.

The easier way is to scatter the seeds in the Fall in an open area with few weeds and grass as the seeds must go through a cold period to germinate and grow.

Choose an area carefully because the milkweed will spread but your plot of milkweed will attract the beautiful Monarchs to your garden plus help the Monarchs to survive.



*Top left: Milkweed in flower. Bottom left: Milkweed pods. Above: Monarch Butterfly.*

# Clubs' Calendar 2024

## September 7–8, 2024

Germantown Garden Club Flower Show  
American Legion Hall  
1154 Woods Rd, Germantown, NY

## October 17, 2024

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

## October 23–23, 2024

CAR Conference  
Olde Mill Inn  
225 US 202, Basking Ridge, NJ

## November 21, 2024

Athens Garden Club's Annual Auction Fund Raiser  
Pegasus Restaurant  
Rt 9W, Coxsackie, NY

## December 4, 2024

Schoharie Valley Garden Club's  
Annual Luncheon and Boutique  
“Dreaming of a White Christmas”

## December 7–8, 2024

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

## PARTING SHOT



View of The Met Cloisters garden, Fort Tryon Park.

Photo by Karin Janson

*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). The February Digest only features the Spring District Meeting.

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.





Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Continued from front:

Members Names (Please Print):

Chicken  Flounder
