

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



NOVEMBER 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

Fall District Meeting	2
Flower Show School	3
Let's Garden "Think"	3
In Our Clubs	4
A White Christmas	9
Clubs' Calendar	11

CLUBS IN DISTRICT III

District Three Clubs, by County

Albany: Blue Creek, Guilderland, Helderview

Columbia: Germantown

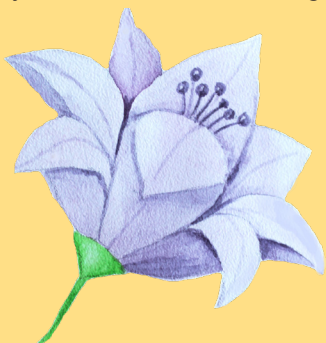
Dutchess: Tioronda

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



From the Director



As the 2024 Garden Club year comes to a close, I would like to express my appreciation to our Executive Board, County and Committee Chairmen, Club Presidents, and our members for their support and commitment to our District and your respective clubs. Thank you for a job well done. You are the best!

Our recent District Fall meeting in Kingston was a huge success with good reviews from those who participated in the satisfaction survey. A total of 71 members gathered for an informative meeting, presentation of awards, and a relaxing

lunch. Following lunch, floral designer Dorothy Chenevert created many exquisite floral arrangements which were raffled at the end of her presentation.

Kris Vogt, Chair of the Nominations and Election Committee, announced the nominations for the slate of new officers for the 2025–2027 term. The Installation of Officers listed below will take place at our Spring District meeting in April.

Director: Gary Barrack, Tioronda Garden Club

First Assistant Director: Linda Levitt, Germantown Garden Club

Second Assistant Director: Open

Recording Secretary: Terry Buel, Clematis Garden Club

Corresponding Secretary: Carol Demicco, Community Garden Club of Marlborough

Treasurer: Marie Celeste, Greenbush Garden Club

Assistant Treasurer: Kim Gurney, Guilderland Garden Club

Next year, FGCNYS will meet at the Desmond Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany for their Annual State Convention on June 2– 4. Once again our District will be host to the Convention. However, this year will be very special for us. "Special" in that our own Elizabeth (Beth) Walker from the Saugerties Society of Little Gardens will be installed as the New York State President for 2025–2027. This will be an exciting and very proud moment for all of us in the Third District. Hopefully many of our members will be able to attend her installation ceremony and reception on June 3, 2025. More information on the 2025 Annual Convention will be forthcoming.

As Thanksgiving approaches, and the year comes to an end, let us pause and reflect on the many blessings we have received; for the gift of family and friends; for the beauty that our garden clubs create; and for the privilege of living in this great country. Best wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

God bless you all

Gary Barrack, Director



FALL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: *Fall! Foliage, Flowers, & Friends* OCTOBER 17, 2024

On October 17, 68 members 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 individual members and clubs with help with ticket sales by the Albany County Garden Clubs. The 50/50 Raffle ticket sales were provided by Greene and Schoharie Garden Clubs. Tioronda Garden Club made the beautiful table arrangements. Many awards were presented including Citations from the Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc. The guest speaker was Dot Chenevert. Dot is a floral designer, former owner of Green Oak Florist, and President, NE Chapter, American Institute of Floral Designers.



SAVE THE DATES

Flower Show School

Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.



COURSE 1

March 29, 2025 • 9am-11am
Flower Show Procedure via Zoom

APRIL 1-3, 2025

Design and Horticulture
Cornell Cooperative Center, Albany
24 Martin Rd., Voorheesville, NY 12186

COURSE 2

OCTOBER 4, 2025 • 9am-11am
Flower Show Procedure via Zoom

OCTOBER 7-9, 2025

Design and Horticulture
Cornell Cooperative Center, Albany
24 Martin Rd., Voorheesville, NY 12186

Registration form, details and lodging available soon.

Attendance is mandatory at all sections of the course (Flower Show Procedure, Design & Horticulture).

Kim Thomson • FGCNYS Flower Show Chair • thomsonkime@gmail.com

Let's Garden "Think"

Linda Levitt, Horticulture Chair

It's November, the leaves are falling and yet the temperatures are not sure just exactly where they want to be. It's a beautiful time of year in NY state. As we put away our garden tools, it is certainly not the time to forget about our gardens.

Gardening is a 12-month job—if we are not working in our gardens, we certainly spend time thinking about them and what about next year?

What worked? What didn't?

So, let's take time to think about these two questions whether you are going to design a new space or work with something that might just need a change.

When giving some thought to the garden space, also ask these questions:

- Is there functionality to the space? If so, what?
- What are the good things about the space? The not so good things—climate, light conditions, soil type?
- What is the garden style? Informal or formal? Color scheme? Bloom time?
- How many seasons of interest do I want or need?

Now is the time to think and make notes about next year while everything is fresh in our memory.

Happy garden thinking!



GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

Germantown Garden Club Holds Flower Show

For 95 years the Germantown Garden Club has held an annual Flower Show. The annual show is free and open to the public and consists of a design division, a horticulture division, an educational exhibit and a botanical arts division (photography).

The club follows the National Garden Clubs guidelines and rules for a Standard Flower Show which includes 6 design classes with a total of 24 designs. The show featured 24 floral arrangements, 2 educational exhibits, 90 horticultural specimens and photographs. The theme for the show was “The Four Seasons.” The design division featured fresh and dried flower arrangements in six major groups. The horticulture specimens division included individual flowers, herbs, branches and container grown plants. The show was judged by accredited flower show judges, open to the public and admission was free.

Germantown Garden Club Recognized

Culminating a year of hard work, the Germantown Garden Club was recognized by receiving a total of 9 awards. The awards were presented at the Fall Meeting of the Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State . There are three level of awards, the District, the State, the Central Atlantic Region, and Nationally. The fall meeting and luncheon was titled ‘Fall! Foliage Flowers and Friends’ and was held at the Best Western Plus in Kingston. The day included a presentation of flower arranging by Dorothy Chenevert, President NE Chapter AIFD. The business part of the day included elections of officers for the 2025–2027 term.

October and November Meetings

At the October meeting of the Germantown Garden Club Master Gardener with the Columbia- Greene Cornell Cooperative Extension Mary Ann Iaccino gave a presentation on the topic “What’s next in Your Garden? A Sequence of Blooms”. Mary Ann has a background in secondary science and in business and is semi-retired. The discussion covered how and when to plant bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes, annuals, biennials, perennials and flowering shrubs. She also covered how to extend visual interest using bloom, fruit, twig and bark for color and texture- for a continuous display in the garden all year long.

At the November meeting of the Germantown Garden Club member Triona Fritsch presented a program on ‘Natural Decorating for the Winter Months’. Triona spoke about and demonstrated how to use natural materials from the garden to decorate during the winter months. She incorporated elements of the garden in wreaths, garlands, dried arrangements and even Christmas trees in a fun way to a ‘fresh’ take on interior spaces during the holidays and beyond.

The annual election of officers was held at the meeting: President Irene Clum, Vice-president Maureen Lockwood, Recording Secretary, Andi Brenkash, Corresponding Secretary, Kate Kennedy, Treasurer. Joyce Vale.



Above: The club’s Flower Show “The Four Seasons.”

Center: Club member Triona Fritsch demonstrates decorating with natural materials for the winter months.

Below: The club received recognition at the Fall District Meeting. Members (l. to r.) Karin Janson, Melanie Nelson, Linda Levitt, club Vice-President Maureen Lockwood, member Fran Bufi and club President Irene Clum.

GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Linda Miller, Co-President

GGC Celebrating 60 Years!

The Guilderland Garden Club celebrated their 60th Anniversary by taking a ride on the Dutch Apple Cruise Line. The members took a wonderful trip down the Hudson River and our highlight of the trip was spotting some beautiful eagles in the gorgeous fall splendor.

Members toured the Pruyn House, a historic home built between 1824 and 1836 in the Town of Colonie. We visited their beautiful gardens that are maintained by the Fort Orange Garden Club and the Blue Creek Garden Club.

A fund-raiser was held in October at the Bountiful Bread in Guilderland. The Club is thankful for the opportunity they afforded us to help fund our local scholarship program.

Upcoming:

The Guilderland Garden Club in cooperation with the Guilderland Historical Society is hosting their annual fund-raiser “Deck the Halls.” The open house and greens show takes place December 6–8 at our historic home, Mynderse Frederick House in Guilderland Center. All are invited to attend to see the house come alive with period decorations and live greens throughout. Free musical entertainment and refreshments will be provided and we will have many sale items including ornaments, wreaths, and floral arrangements. For more information, please visit our website: GuilderlandGardenClub.com or our Facebook page.



Top: Visiting the Pruyn House's Beautiful gardens.
Above and Left: Celebrating our 60th anniversary on Dutch apple Cruise. A very windy chilly day!



COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB OF MARLBOROUGH ON HUDSON

ALBANY COUNTY

by Linda Fogerty, Treasurer

The Community Garden Club of Marlborough on Hudson had a busy Autumn weeding and planting bulbs at the garden at The Desmond House, our ongoing community project.

At our October meeting we held a fund-raising basket raffle. We also had a lot of fun creating flower and succulent arrangements with pumpkins, some of which are pictured at right.

December's meeting will feature a demonstration on making holiday displays.

Our year will end with a holiday luncheon at La Casa Vicini.



Members created arrangements in pumpkins.

NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Margaret McDowell, President

Welcome To Fall! We welcomed our fall programming with a field trip to Mohonk for their beautiful garden display “An Ode to Artists” particularly Georgia O’Keefe, Claude Monet, Vincent Van Gogh, and Hieronymus Bosch. Separate areas of the garden were devoted to the favored colors and styles of these artists. One of Mohonk’s gardeners gave us a thorough tour, the turnout of members and guests was excellent. Additionally in September we helped our local Library Fair by manning the Plant Booth and donating some plants.

For October, six of our members attended the District #3 Fall Luncheon and had a most enjoyable and instructive time. On October 21st we visited the Hortus Arboretum and Botanical Gardens in Stone Ridge. It boasts a unique collection of both popular and lesser-known trees, shrubs, and vining plants. It’s owners and caretakers have been working and planting this amazing 21-acre Garden for almost 25 years.

In November we are planning a Holiday craft event where our members will be making Christmas wreaths. As always, our

community gardens received loving care from our members until the first frost, new bulbs and perennials were planted in anticipation of next spring. We received publicity of some of our meetings and events in the local weekly Hudson Valley One paper.

Finally, our Holiday Party will be in December—a time to celebrate and socialize after a busy year. We will again make living holiday decorations for our local nursing home residents. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous end of year.



Members visiting Mohonk and the Hortus Arboretum.

SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Sophia Browne

The second part of 2024 was busy and fun. In August, we participated in the annual Blueberry Festival sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Our Club members made sure that the village planters sparkled for the festival visitors. We are always the first 2 tents at the entrance. We sell native plants, bird houses, floral bouquets, quilted items, and offer gardening tips. Club volunteers are active and friendly.

Our scheduled trip to Neversink Plant Co, in September, was cancelled due to Covid. We participated in a scarecrow workshop. Upon completion, our scarecrows were distributed throughout Ellenville's major streets. Our photos were in the Shawangunk Journal, October 17 issue. Our September meeting instructed us on how to grow Orchids. Our speakers were from the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society. Plants were available for purchase.

October kept us busy! The club created 30 centerpieces for the Ellenville Regional Hospital (ERH) Gala. Besides our regular meeting, we had a Chili Contest in October. Three winners, three prizes. First prize went to one of our Gentlemen club members. He was proud! We had an outside

judge. Finally, we were able to appreciate the fall colors at the Orange County Arboretum this year. No bad weather. Quite a treat. We attended the Fall District Luncheon in Kingston and enjoyed the Program

Our November Meeting, at our local Library, was been delayed due to the Election. We will have our regular committee reports. This year, we are selling our quilted items at this meeting to members. Good Christmas gifts. On November 30, we will make centerpieces for the Noonday Club for Seniors Holiday Dinner. We will be decorating the Terwilliger House Museum for the holidays at the Ellenville Public Library & Museum on November 30 as well.

Our December Christmas Meeting will be held at a refurbished farmhouse. Nutcrackers are a favorite of the hostess. Exchanging gifts is always a challenge and fun. The end of a successful year.

Throughout the year, we participate in Adopt A Highway and local monthly food pantries besides school scholarships and taking care of the local street planters and plants at ERH . We proudly contribute to Dig Deep Navajo Indian Water Project monthly.



Top left: Members and Scarecrows at the Boot area at Liberty Square in Ellenville. Bottom left: Sylvia Russo with friend Zelda. Top: Narcan scarecrow outside the Hunt Memorial Building. Top right: Lillian Green, Treasurer, with Jeff Wittenberg, FIRST PRIZE winner of CHILI contest. Bottom right: Beautiful day at the Orange County Arboretum, Thomas Bull Memorial Park



SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Anne Bielauski

Our October meeting featured Kevin Berner of the NYS Bluebird Society, giving a talk on the state bird, which was very informative. We all learned more on this very pretty bird. This was followed by a workshop for our Christmas luncheon favors.

For our November meeting, we will have a workshop for the Festival of Trees ornaments. The Festival of Trees is held at the NYS Power Authority in Blenheim, NY. Our garden club has its' own tree that we decorate every year. This year's ornament will be a seed packet angel. The trees are on display for the month of December.

The finale for our garden club is our annual Holiday Luncheon, held on December 4, 2024 in Schoharie. All members participate and it is a much loved event.



This year the club will be decorating their tree with a seed packet angel for the Festival of Trees.

SAUGERTIES SOCIETY OF LITTLE GARDENS

ULSTER COUNTY

by Dale Winchester, President

After extensive planning, meeting, and organizing, our club celebrated our centennial anniversary. The anniversary tea was held on the afternoon of September 18. Approximately seventy persons attended the event at the Lamouree-Hackett American Legion in Saugerties. The club received recognition from State Senator Michelle Hinchey, and the Village and Town of Saugerties for our contributions to the community. Our program included individual members speaking about the club's activities through each decade of the past hundred years. The event provided us with an opportunity to thank all our supporters and their ongoing assistance to the club. A light lunch and cake were served. It turned out to be a wonderful event.

The club planted mums in the corner pole boxes throughout the village in anticipation of the Saugerties Annual Mum Festival held on September 25.

On October 4, the club gathered to create over 200 boutonnieres and 5 corsages for Saugerties annual Mum Festival on October 6. The boutonnieres and corsages are

distributed by the Saugerties High School Homecoming Court at the festival. The Mum Festival is held each year at Seamons Park in the village. Club members participate in the festival, displaying our quilt and selling raffle tickets. Our members Susan Campbell and Delores Brink have been creating quilts for the club to raffle, as one of our two fund raisers. The day was just beautiful.



Left: Celebrating 100 years.

Right: Making boutonnieres and corsages for the Mum Festival.

"A White Christmas"



Schoharie Valley Garden Club Annual Holiday Luncheon & Boutique!

Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

"Sablewood" at Highview Springs Farm

5038 State Route 30, Schoharie, New York, www.TheSablewood.com

(Handicap drop off – please follow circular driveway to side door on right)

10:45: Registration & Shopping

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

(Chicken Caprese, Salad, Roasted Red Potatoes, Green Beans, Brownie Sundae)

(Please inform us of special dietary needs)

1:00: Floral Demonstration by Jenna Malette of <https://www.CrossHillHeirlooms.com>, Cobleskill, NY

Start Your Christmas Shopping Early at our Holiday Boutique!

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

Shops Open

10:45

(Bring Shopping Bag)

Cheryl Jones:	"Too Cool Beads" - Handcrafted Bead & Stone Jewelry
Deborah LaBombard:	Stunning Fashions, Handbags and Accessories
Alexandra McLennan:	"Beads and Baubles by Alex"
Colleen Treiling:	"Ribbon Trees and Such"
Susan Wissick:	"Fiber Art and Stitchery" - Quilts, alpaca products and more (and others)



Reservation & Payment **DUE by Monday, November 18, 2024**

\$40 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 _____

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack, Dutchess County Chairman

The Tioronda Garden Club visited Glynwood Farms, Center for Regional Food and Farming for their annual August field trip. The farm is situated in Cold Spring, NY with magnificent views of the Hudson Highlands. They were joined by members of the neighboring Verplanck Garden Club. The farm specializes in “Regenerative Farming,” advancing local food production and education about efforts to regionalize food.

On Saturday, September 21, the club held its annual mum sale. A record total of 200 mums plants in five color categories were sold on a pre-pay basis, making the fundraiser a huge success.

The club held its annual Autumn Wine Cocktail Party at the historic Howland Cultural Center on October 9 to a sold-out crowd. Musical entertainment was provided by member Diana Ferrara. Raffles and gift cards to local restaurants contributed to the success of the event.

November will be a busy month as the club prepares for the installation of Christmas Wreaths on Main St. and decorating the Howland Center and historic Madam Brett Homestead for the holidays. The Brett Homestead, built in 1709, is the oldest house in Dutchess County. It is owned by the Melzingah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Top: Club members Lucy Carcaramo, club Vice President Denise Devore, and James Bell work the Tioronda Garden Club booth at the Spirit of Beacon Day parade in September.

Center: Susan Lambert, Donna Way, Nancy Vodrazka, Denise DeVore, and Liz Sullivan take a break for a photo op on the porch of the Madam Brett Homestead at the Club's annual Fall Mum sale.

Above: A perfect day for the Tioronda Garden Club's field trip to the Glynwood Farm and Estate in Cold Spring, NY.

Below Left: "Beautifying Beacon since 1929" The club's 60 beautiful hanging baskets on Main Street have become a tourist attraction drawing visitors to the city during the Spring and Summer months.

Clubs' Calendar 2024-25

December 7-8, 2024

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

December 4, 2024

*Schoharie Valley Garden Club's
Annual Luncheon and Boutique
A White Christmas!*
Sablewood Highview Farms
Schoharie, NY

December 6-8, 2024

Guilderland Garden Club Holiday Sale
Mynderse-Fredrick House
Guilderland, NY

April 10, 2025

Third District Spring Meeting
Details to follow.

June 2-4, 2025

Annual State Meeting
Desmond Crown Plaza
Albany, NY

PARTING SHOT



Beautiful poppies at Stone Crop Garden in Cold Spring, NY.

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.

To access *The Digest*, go to the State website—fgcnys.com—select District III on the home page and then select Digest Online.

