

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



FEBRUARY 2018

CONTENTS

Educational Displays Needed	2
Third District Spring Meeting	3
Yearbook Contest	4
In Our Clubs	5
Clubs of Greene-Schoharie	10
World Gardening Update	11

Editor's Note

I was very sorry to hear of the recent death of Maryann Weber. She was the editor of *The Digest* before me for many years. Most notably, Maryann published the print version, where she had to deal with mailing it out and coordinating it with printers. That was a hard thing to do.

When I was first approached to take over her position as editor for this publication, I didn't want to do it, as Maryann had been the editor for a long time and knew how to get the clubs in our District to send in their stories. I didn't think I was a good enough writer as she was. After all, she was the author of 5 published novels. But she persuaded me and made me feel like I could take over this job successfully. And most importantly, let me know that she would help and guide me in this endeavor. After she passed her baton to me, I relied on her great editorial skills to check the grammar, spelling, and punctuation of each edition of *The Digest*.

In this issue, I am including one of my favorite articles that she wrote.

She was a great lady and a true gardener and will be very missed.

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

From the Director



Best wishes to all for a very happy and healthy New Year. As we begin the 2018 Garden Club year, I want to express my gratitude for all you do to make our country and our communities more beautiful, cleaner, greener, and healthier. As I receive garden club Happenings Reports from club presidents, I am amazed at what extraordinary things small groups of dedicated club members can accomplish to improve and beautify our lives and preserve our heritage. On November 16, I attended the Athens Community Garden Club's annual holiday luncheon and live auction. What a great fund raiser! Such a large attendance, with many beautiful

items and very professionally orchestrated. President Katherine Montague was most gracious, and members appeared to have a great time. I was the successful bidder for a very sought after coffee cake baked by a member well known for her culinary skills. It received rave reviews by my family and friends. The Schoharie Valley Garden Club held its annual Holiday Luncheon and Boutique in December. It was another very successful event, followed by a presentation by David Siders of Experience and Design, Schenectady. President Anne Bielawski was most congenial and extended a warm welcome to me and to past District Directors Camille McComb and Reneta Benenati.

I attended the State Winter Board meeting in November. Highlights included the announcement of the Annual FGCNYS meeting, which will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Binghamton, NY on April 15-17, 2018. I encourage as many members as possible to attend. Actually, it is not a very long distance for Third District members and I am sure you will have an enjoyable time. Also, in an effort to decrease travel for board members and cut costs, a reduction in the number of future State Board meetings was voted on and approved. *(cont. on pg 2)*



At the Schoharie Garden Club Holiday Luncheon. Seated in front of me from left to right: Carole Garvar, Camille McComb, Joseph McComb, and Renee Benenati.

(Director's Message from pg 1)

We continue on our journey to increase membership in our District. Our clubs did an outstanding job in recruiting and retaining members in 2017, and with your help, we hope to keep up the momentum in 2018.

Our Spring District meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19, at 10:30 AM at Moscatiello's Italian Restaurant, 99 N. Greenbush Rd. (Route 4) Troy, NY. Lunch at noon, program at 1 PM: "History of Yaddo and Its Gardens" presented by the Yaddo Garden Association, Saratoga Springs, NY.

I look forward to seeing you at this annual event. For more information, see the announcement on page 3 of this issue of the Digest. Club Presidents are strongly encouraged to share *The Digest* with members of your respective clubs. And speaking of this, thank you Karin Janson of the Germantown Garden Club for another outstanding publication of *The Digest*.

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS NEEDED!

By Elizabeth Walker, Third District 2nd Assistant Director

That's kind of a stodgy name and doesn't begin to do justice to the delightful and informative displays that we had at the Third District's Fall Meeting in Kingston last October. Who could resist the completely charming frog pond that accompanied The Frightened Frog display? Those little guys practically leapt out of their pond! And what about the Yearbook display? I actually saw people sitting in the lobby reading one yearbook after another! What a great way to get ideas for future yearbooks for your own club or for field trips or presentation topics! The list goes on—we saw information about the Blue Star Marker program, about theme gardens and kitchen gardens. And I certainly hadn't realized how many membership pins were available!

With the Third District Spring Meeting coming up on April 19, now would be a good time to consider doing an educational display for that meeting. Penny Pines, anyone? Karner Blue Butterfly?

If you're interested in bringing an educational display to the spring conference, please get in touch with Elizabeth Walker at ewalker2@gmail.com.



CLUBS IN DISTRICT III

District Three Clubs, by County

Albany: Blue Creek, 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

Did You Know?

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., the largest gardening organization in the world. New York is a member of the Central Atlantic Region (CAR).

The FGCNYS, Inc. is divided into ten geographic Districts, each with a District Director who serves with elected officers on the FGCNYS Executive Committee. Appointed board members work to support the objectives of the organization. Officers serve for two year terms.



SPRING DISTRICT MEETING:

Spring in Bloom

Gary Barrack, Director, Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.

Warmly invites you to the Spring District Meeting

April 19, 2018

Moscatiello's Family Restaurant,

99 North Greenbush Rd. (Route 4), Troy, NY 12180 | 518-283-0809

REGISTRATION: 9:30 a.m.

VENDORS, BENEFIT TABLE, WAYS AND MEANS, AND EXHIBITS: from 9:30 a.m.–Noon

BUSINESS MEETING: 10:30–11:30 a.m.

RAFFLES & SPRING HAT FASHION SHOW:
11:30–Noon

LUNCHEON: Noon–1 p.m.

\$30 (prepaid by April 6)

Menu: Chicken Limone, Salmon Florentine, or Eggplant Parmigiana. Served with salad, vegetable, and a dessert cheesecake.

RESERVATIONS: due April 6. Send names of attendees and menu choice with one check per club to **Cindy Teator, Registrar;**

8 Catskill Dr., Kinderhook, NY 12106.

greateating@yahoo.com or 518-755-7086.

Make checks payable to Third District, FGCNYS, Inc.

A FUN THING TO DO: Spring Bonnets. Decorate a hat or fascinator with spring flowers and wear it to the luncheon. Live or faux flowers are acceptable.

DIRECTIONS: From North or South: Take I-87 (Thruway) to exit 23, Albany. Merge onto I-787N towards downtown Albany. Take Exit 7E (NY 378) towards South Troy. Take third right onto Morrison Avenue. Turn right onto Vandenberg Avenue/Route US 4 South. Restaurant is approximately one mile on the left.

**PROGRAM: YADDO—
ITS GARDENS AND HISTORY**

A member of the Yaddo Garden Association will talk about Yaddo, its gardens, their restoration, and current events. This promises to be a beautiful presentation filled with interesting information presented by someone who loves the gardens.

(Registration Forms are located at the end of the newsletter.)



Editor's Note: I am sharing this article from Maryann Weber, former editor of this publication for many years, who passed away in January. She was a member of The Garden Club of Kinderhook where she was president several times, a master gardener, and until her health moved her to resign most recently, vice president of her club This is from the August 2011 edition of *The Digest*. I think it captures her spirit and gardening enthusiasm. She will be very missed.

Maryann's Musings

by Maryann Weber, Digest Editor

In all the years—I'll probably be happier not figuring out how many—I've been editing *The Digest* I've rarely chosen to write anything for it, in spite of the fact that when asked what I "do," writing ranks right up there with gardening. But it's been an interesting summer, and I feel like sharing my take on one small segment of it.

First of all, I have a confession to make: it's not that I dislike flower shows (having remained in reasonably good spirits while co-chairing two for my club and serving in various capacities in a bunch of others). However, I'm not a big fan of them, either.

So what was I thinking, signing up for trips to two seriously major shows on succeeding Fridays this June? I mean, if someone told me that I would happily spend six and a half hours wandering around looking at flower arrangements I'd promise (insincerely) to put that experience on my bucket list—right after completing my first parachute jump, assuming the result of the jump included survival.

But that's what happened at the Wafa show over in Boston. My initial plan was to spend two hours, tops, at the show, and then catch the T into the heart of the city—do a little shopping, hit a museum or two. I never got out of the building. Such imagination, creativity, expressed in a wealth of designs, many of them reflecting cultures other than our own! I'm so glad the Claverack Garden Club sponsored a bus trip to this event—and that I had the good sense to join it.

The following Friday was Third District's bus trip to the Newport show. To be honest, I was more interested in experiencing the Newport ambiance than seeing a flower show, but the show did not disappoint. I loved the Blue (well, sometimes more like purple) Garden, and both the design and horticulture sections had many interesting exhibits. And talk about ambiance: that lawn overlooking the Atlantic, with its bright white vendor tents and a jazz combo accompanying our al fresco lunch...

Sandwiched between these two excursions was the Landscape Design Consultants Refresher organized by Barbara Campbell and Marge Lansing. You need to refresh every five years, which is certainly no chore. The refreshers I've attended have all been worthwhile—even the one Marge and I put together that fell on the weekend following 9/11. Our Staten Island contingent, uneasy about traveling, cancelled out, but for the rest of us it was good to take a break from immersion in that terrible tragedy and concentrate on gardens.

This refresher, based in the New Paltz area, offered opportunities to study a variety of gardening trends and applications, not to mention a delightful buffet lunch at Mohonk Mountain House, and a tasty boxed dinner provided by the New Paltz Garden Club at the Old Fort on historic Huguenot Street.

State Landscape Design Schools Chair Antoinette Babb later informed me that all of us Third District Landscape Design Consultants have now attained the status of Master. I inquired what perks might be involved. She said, well, there's the honor—but we'd still need to refresh every five years. Not a problem.

Maryann

YEARBOOK CONTEST

*You can't win it until
you are in it!*

Did you know that the Third District holds a Yearbook Contest each year?

The District has been evaluating Yearbooks for many years. Once they are judged, the winning books go on to the state and national for further competition.

All those who submit their Yearbooks for judging will be given a list of what could be done to improve them. This is a wonderful way to recognize those that spend a great deal of time creating a very special Yearbook for your club. And it also provides feedback for clubs to improve.

All instructions are on the website at fgcnys.com under the Awards Information tab where you can click on the Awards Manual link. The scale of points used to judge is also there.

Let's try for 100% participation this year in the Yearbook Contest.

Please send one (1) copy of your Yearbook by June 1, 2018 to:

Barbara Campbell

14 Deerpath Drive

New Paltz, NY 12561

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Bufi

At the November meeting of the Germantown Garden Club, Diane Madden—Master Gardener of the Rensselaer Cornell Cooperative Extension, Third District Treasurer, and member of the Greenbush Garden Club—presented an informative program on ‘Creating a Fairy Garden.’ The question of what is a fairy garden was explained. Diane gave a history of these gardens and introduced us to the many forms of fairies that are around us. She explained the benefits of enhancing fairies to come into our gardens by building fairy houses. Diane displayed many examples of these houses and demonstrated how to construct different types, stressing the importance of using only natural materials. Several examples of natural materials such as tree bark, moss, twigs, wild seed pods, and more were shared with us.

Each year the Germantown Garden Club hosts an Annual Holiday Open House at the historic 1767 Palatine Parsonage in Germantown. The club decorated the Parsonage inside and out with live greens and a live Christmas tree was decorated for the holiday season. The Open House featured a member horticultural show called ‘Winter Container Plants.’ Plants shown were in the following categories: Grown for Foliage, Grown for Flower, and Trailing. We also included a Gingerbread House contest for local children under 12-years of age. The participants were Paige, Isabella and Jonathan Mollo; Chloe Steeneck; and pictured with his creation Zachery Shook.

The December meeting of the Germantown Garden Club was held at the Germantown Historic site, the 1767 Palatine Parsonage. The final meeting for 2017 was a delicious covered dish luncheon provided by the members. The agenda for the meeting included committee reports for 2017, and a year-end review by Fran Bufi of the club’s activities and successes for 2017. Plans for next year including the annual plant sale, flower show, bird walk and possible field trips were discussed. Also on the agenda was the Installation of Officers for 2018. Outgoing Vice-President Mattie Gifford presided over the installation of officers for 2018. Each officer that took the oath of office was presented with a flower whose color signified the position she was to hold.

Every January, a select group of members from the club meets and plans out the program of meetings, projects, field trips, and special events for the year. The 2018 Yearbook committee consisted of members Irene Clum, Karin Janson, Melanie Nelson, Marilyn Rein, Mary Puskar, and Fran Bufi. Formed in 1928, this year the Germantown Garden Club will celebrate its 90th Anniversary. Our theme for 2018 is 90 Years and Still Growing. Along with a celebration event, the club will be presenting a speaker that will talk about the history of wine making in the Hudson Valley, learn about gardening in containers, listen to a speaker who will teach us about creating flower arrangements using roadside flowers/weeds, present a hands-on workshop about decorating different types of wreaths, learn about finding and recognizing different ‘fungi’ (mushrooms) in the wild, and holding its annual flower show. The club’s first meeting of the year is scheduled for late February.



Diane Madden introduces us to fairies at our Nov. meeting.



Zachery Shook and his Gingerbread House creation.



Our new officers for 2018. Joyce Vale, Treasurer (not pictured), Kate Kennedy, Corresponding Secretary, Marilyn Rein, Recording Secretary, Mary Puskar, Vice-President and Fran Bufi, President.



Planning our 2018 programs. Standing left to right; members Irene Clum, Karin Janson, Club Recording Secretary, Marilyn Rein. Seated, left to right; member, Melanie Nelson, Vice-President Mary Puskar.

GREENPORT GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Maria Kolodziej-Zincio

At its December meeting and Holiday Luncheon members of the Greenport Garden Club filled a car to the brim with food, blankets, and non-perishable items that would be distributed to local children and their families in need. Gift cards to local supermarkets were also collected. For the past three years, the club has partnered with Hudson Middle School, club member Carolyn West, and Hudson Jr. High School Social Worker Tara McCrery-Wolfe, who coordinates and organizes the program for homeless children. It is all about giving in the spirit of love during the holiday season. There are many children in schools who live in shelters for the homeless with their families and during the holiday season, it is a tough time for these children to feel the holiday spirit. Often donations of gifts for children are gathered to elevate the feeling of sadness. One thing to remember is that they too would enjoy a traditional holiday meal. The Greenport Garden Club continues to participate with Hudson Middle School to make sure that the Christmas holiday season lifts the spirits of these children and their families.

Holiday Greens for the Community

During the pre-holiday season, the Greenport Garden Club gathered to create and prepare holiday arrangements for various community centers in the City of Hudson. Holiday arrangements such as wreaths and table top trees were presented to the Greenport Town Hall, the Hudson Library, and the Health Consortium at the Columbia County Dept. of Social Services. A large wreath was created by Stephanie Teator-Gaylord and Angela Rapp which was donated to the 32nd Annual Gallery of Wreaths & Silent Auction event at the James Vanderpool House of History in Kinderhook. Garden club members Kathy Bucholsky, Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Carolyn West, Angela Rapp, Stephanie Gaylord, and Maggie Brower were the busy elves in the club's annual community project. All greens and accessories were donated and provided by garden club members who worked diligently to get the decorations out early for the public to see.

Boxwood Tree Workshop

The Greenport Garden Club held several workshops on creating a holiday tabletop boxwood tree—not only for its members—but also for the public to attend through our local college, Columbia-Greene Community College's Community Services Office. The workshops were held at an off-campus site with multiple days and time offerings. Greenport Garden Club member, Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, has been creating boxwood trees and wreaths for many years and conducted this three-hour class. "It was such a success that evaluations from our participants encouraged us to continue to do this again," she reported. This event was a fund raiser for our youth scholarship programs. A total of thirty participants walked away with their own customized holiday boxwood tree.



Top: Cindi Hockenberry and Carolyn West collect non-perishable items.

Center: Angela Rapp, Maggie Brower, Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Kathy Bucholsky, and Stephanie Teator-Gaylord prepare holiday greens for the community.

Bottom: Greenport Garden Club members at Columbia-Greene Community College.

GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Merrill-Lee Lenegar

In early December Kris Vogt and Merrill-Lee Lenegar placed wreaths at the Blue Star Markers at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Albany and the Guilderland Rest Stop at Exit 24 of the Thruway. At both places people passing by stopped to say how nice they thought it was to have the wreaths on the markers.

The Guilderland Garden Club and the Guilderland Historical Society hosted their Annual Open House and Greens Show at the historic Mynderse Frederick House in Guilderland Center on December 1–3. The theme for this year's free community event was 'The Sounds of the Season'. Each room reflected a holiday song. Over 200 visitors enjoyed homemade refreshments, musical entertainment, and a visit from Santa Claus. The house was decorated with ornaments, wreaths and arrangements made by Garden Club members and nonperishable food donations were collected for the Regional Food Bank. Members of the historical society provided information on the history of the house. A portion of the proceeds from sales and donations will benefit the Penny Pines Program and the Lyme Action Network.

The fireplace in the parlor was decorated with princess pines, a village scene cut from paper, paper whites, and an antique sled with a dried floral arrangement. The song inspiration for the room was 'Winter Wonderland' done by Carol Samsonoff, and Judy and Tom Plummer.

'Parson Brown' sat on top of a chest of drawers in the parlor. Made by Carol Samsonoff, he consisted of 185 live carnations. After the open house, 'Parson Brown' was donated to the Mercy Care Life Center.

The Tavern Room was decorated by Ellen Nadeau, Judi Golombiski, and Linda Greenberg using the song 'Let It Snow' as inspiration. The front entrance of the house was called 'Deck the Halls' and was done by Kris Vogt and Merrill-Lee Lenegar.



Top Left: Our Blue Star Marker decoration.

Bottom Left: Fireplace decorations.

Top Right: Parson Brown, created by Carol Samonoff, was donated to the Mercy Care Life Center.

Bottom Right: Tavern Room decorations.

GARDEN CLUB OF KINDERHOOK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Cynthia Bogardus

The holiday season saw the Garden Club of Kinderhook engaged in many festive activities. At the November monthly meeting, local floral designer Erin Brady demonstrated the creation of holiday-themed arrangements, utilizing on-hand or sale items as containers and embellishments. She encouraged the group to think “outside the box” when decorating, incorporating our own favorite colors and themes to holiday decor.

The yearly boxwood workshop took place on November 28, with members and guests gathering to create trees, wreaths, kissing balls and table arrangements to be used at home or given as gifts. Closely following this event is the Club’s annual holiday decorating project at Lindenwald, home of President Martin Van Buren. This year’s theme centered around Queen Victoria, who maintained a corresponding friendship with Van Buren. Decorating for Christmas flourished during Victoria’s reign, which the Club reflected by using gilded ornamentation throughout the home. At the conclusion of the event, the poinsettias used for decorating were distributed by Club members to nursing homes and shut-ins.

Each year on December 5, local groups gather at the Kinderhook grave site of President Martin Van Buren to commemorate his birthday. The Garden Club of Kinderhook donates one of the many wreaths for the ceremony. Member Laurie Kelly represented the Club at this year’s event.

The final Club event for 2017 was the President’s Tea, held at the home of current president Sandy Wooding. The Board provided delicious refreshments and poured tea for the guests. Members spent a lovely afternoon conversing and exchanging holiday greetings.

This year the Garden Club of Kinderhook will have a Small Standard Flower Show, entitled ‘Playground Floral Fantasies,’ on Friday, June 8 from 3–6 pm and Saturday, June 9 from noon– 3 pm. The Show will be held at the Martin H. Glynn Municipal Building, 3211 Church St., Valatie, NY. 12184.



Members of the Kinderhook Garden Club enjoyed the delightful talents of floral designer Erin Brady at their November meeting. Pictured from left are Wendy Power Spielmann, DeNola Perreten, Eileen McHugh Szepessy, Anne Schomaker, designer Erin Brady, Jane Friend, and Jean Bulick.



Members decorate the house of President Martin Van Buren for the holidays at Lindenwald.



President’s Tea at the home of Sandy Wooding.



Member Laurie Kelly lays the wreath for President Martin Van Buren to commemorate his birthday.

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack

Club members were busy decorating historic sites during the Christmas Season. Each year, members decorate the Madam Brett Homestead, which is the oldest house in Dutchess County and home to the local Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter. The center is decorated in colonial style, using fresh fruits, nuts and other period décor.

Next it was on to decorating the Howland Center, home to the club's meetings. The center was designed by famed architect Richard Morris Hunt in 1872 for Civil War General Joseph Howland, and is on the National Historical Register. Club members prepared over 70 wreaths that were hung along Beacon's Main Street.

On December 12, a holiday decorating workshop was held, followed by wine, appetizers and homemade Christmas cookies and desserts. The club does not meet in January and February, but resumes regular meetings in March, starting with a buffet dinner and installation of officers.



Top: Master Gardener Joan Berube and Nancy Vodrazka dress the fireplace mantel in "holiday style."



Left: Club member Donna Kofalk puts the finishing touches on the grand stairway of the Madam Brett Homestead.

Left: Members take time out for a photo op after installing Christmas decorations at the Howland Cultural Center, home of the Tioronda Garden Club.

SCHOHARIE GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Anne Bielawski

We had a very successful Holiday Luncheon in December, which was attended by about 120 people. Our guest presenter was David Siders, from Experience and Design in Schenectady, who gave us a wonderful show.

Our annual meeting will be on March 7, 2018, which will be a potluck lunch and we will have our election of officers.

Our April meeting will be 'A Taste of Upstate NY' with author Chuck D'Imperio. In May, we will be heading out to Oneonta to the Joseph L Popp Butterfly Conservatory.

David Siders demonstrating at the Holiday Luncheon.
(photo by Reneta Benenati)



GARDEN CLUBS OF GREENE-SCHOHARIE

Carole Garvar, Chair

It has been my pleasure to continue to serve as Greene Schoharie Chair. Over these past 8 years I have met and worked with the most wonderful garden club members and forged meaningful friendships that I will always treasure. I look forward to the programs hosted by these clubs and especially enjoyed the recent holiday events I was able to attend. I congratulate all three clubs for increasing membership, a goal of our NYS president Monica Hanson and Third District Director Gary Barrack. On behalf of my county clubs I wish all of you success in the New Year.

The Athens Community Garden Club

The annual fund raiser was a huge success. It coincided with the Third District Board meeting held at the same venue and we were happy to have Director Gary Barrack as well as several board members stop by and take part in the bidding of the live auction.

Member Anita Benjamin organized the luncheon and 3 auction opportunities. Member Jane Hale did a fabulous job as auctioneer providing an entertaining time with her humor and wit. The selection of items included lots of home baked goods, holiday baskets etc. and a guided tour for ten people in Catskill featuring historic homes and buildings. The event was the most successful one ever held with over 60 guests attending.

The club members created swags for public buildings, decorated the Victorian holiday tree at the Athens Cultural Center and worked with local children making gingerbread houses for a table top village displayed at the Athens Victorian Stroll. A wreath was placed at the Blue Star Byway Marker at the Veterans Triangle in Athens. A collection of food was taken for the Athens Food Pantry and gifts were collected for the Catskill Woman's Shelter. The Annual Holiday Home Decoration Contest was judged by a committee headed by long time member Shirley Siepel and an award was presented to the winner. This event draws increased participation and the club congratulates all of the home owners involved.

The last meeting was held in December with a presentation on 'How To Build a Terrarium' by members Laura Erwig and Mimi Greenfield, and the 2018 scheduled meetings will start in January.

Clematis Garden Club

The last meeting of the year was 'Early Christmas,' presented by member Mary Lou Nahas and her family. They have been collecting antique lights and items for 30 years and held a presentation by their son Chris. Chris spoke of the history of Christmas celebrations starting in Germany and how decorations were made at home with papier mache painted to depict fruit and vegetables. These ornaments had secret compartments used to fill with candy as treats for children.

The club decorated the tree outside of the Greenville Library with edible treats for birds, a clever and sustainable idea for wildlife. They placed wreaths at two Blue Star markers the club had donated within the area they serve. A collection was made of gifts that were donated to a local nursing home. It was announced that 5 new members have recently joined the club.

Schoharie Valley Garden Club

Club members worked hard preparing for the Holiday Luncheon and Boutique "HO HO HO!". The event chaired by Agnes Rapoli and worked on by all members was a huge success. District Director Gary Barrack, County Chair Carole Garvar and past directors Camille Mc Comb and Renee Benenati were in attendance along with many friends from the community. The benefit table laden with contribution from members ranging from table decorations, home baked goods and beautiful wood creations were raffled off. A presentation by the owner David of Experience and Design located in Schenectady was awesome. He created wreaths with unusual color combinations, centerpieces and traditional decorations that were auctioned off. He also brought mantle pieces for display. David starts preparations for his holiday displays a year in advance and has an open house for Christmas in November each year. He is a renowned decorator, hired by both commercial companies and private home owners for holiday designs.

The club also decorated the Schoharie Library and participated in The Festival of Trees at NYS Power Authority in Blenheim by decorating a tree with birdhouse and seed packet ornaments.

To increase membership the club has produced a beautiful brochure outlining the history of the Schoharie Valley Garden Club, the benefits of membership, and activities. It is available at public venues.

Looking towards 2018, a good thing for your clubs to consider would be to make a donation to Penny Pines for Arbor Day. We are all aware of the devastating fires that have ravaged California and as stewards of the land supporting this endeavor is a worthwhile cause. Nancy Hargroves, National Garden Clubs President, is encouraging the participation of all clubs. For more information regarding donations go on the site for FGCoF NYS.



Clubs' Calendar 2018

March 23–25

Capital District Garden and Flower Show
Hudson Valley Community College, Rt. 4, Troy, NY

April 15–17, 2018

FGCNYS Annual Meeting
Doubletree Hotel, Binghamton, NY

April 19, 2018

Third District Spring Meeting
“Spring in Bloom”
Moscatiello's Family Restaurant,
99 North Greenbush Rd., Troy, NY

May 19, 2018

Germantown Garden Club Plant Sale
8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Palatine Park, Palatine Park Rd., Germantown, NY

May 21–24, 2018

NGC Convention
'Love Blooms in Philadelphia'
Loews Philadelphia Hotel
1200 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

WORLD GARDENING UPDATE

Monica Hansen, President, FGCNYS, Inc.

We have had Water for South Sudan for many years and in talking with our members around the state there have been many requests for helping folks in our country. After checking out quite a few organizations, we are adding a new water project in New Mexico. Please check out their website, www.Digdeep.org

The Navajo Water Project is located in Baca, New Mexico. It is a community-managed utility alternative that brings hot and cold running water to homes without access to water and sewer lines. It is the first system of its kind in the United States. Dig Deep has specific funding sources to cover their operating expenses which guarantee that 100% of your donation will go directly to the project.

We feel we can handle both projects by complying with the following—when making your donations, please make your check payable to FGCNYS, memo line Water for South Sudan (WFSS) or Digdeep (DD). If you do not specify either project, your donation will go to Digdeep.

As a reminder, all donations should be sent to our Assistant Treasurer/World Gardening Chair, Marie Celeste, 39 Donegal Ave. Troy, NY 12180.

Thank you for your continued support of the World Gardening initiative.

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.



