

The DIGEST

Director's Message

A New Year has begun. I wish all a Happy and Healthy New Year. After Thanksgiving the days just seem to go so fast. I love to decorate for the holidays. Not just Christmas but all of them. However, Christmas is my favorite. I have **25** trees of all sizes in my home, They all have a theme and each year is different and they range in size from large to teeny. Some of the smaller ones remain out all year long and are quite unique. Yes, I do have a bear tree!

Now that Christmas is over and winter is here it's time for the snowmen to come out.

Then, after all the excitement of shopping, wrapping, parties, and family get-togethers, it's on to the cold, windy and snowy days of winter. Our area has been lucky with little snow thus far. *(Editor's note: Marie obviously wrote this before our winter wonderland descended.)*



Soon it will be time to start the amaryllis bulbs and paper whites. They bring so much color into our homes during the dark days of winter. When the darkest, coldest and snowy days are here, the spring plant, bulb and seed catalogs come out. We then look and dream what we will put in our gardens when spring comes. I've already engaged my grandson to come work in my gardens when he graduates in June. Gotta look ahead, you know!!

Continued on page 2

Save the Date

Third District Spring Meeting—April 21
“Terrific, Colorific Spring”

Details to Follow

Continued from page 1

It's quieter this time of year for many clubs, so why not get busy on the yearbook? It sure is easier than the last-minute rush. We all try to think of new and different projects for the coming year.

It has been fun hearing about what each club does. Just remember to check with your Director when you plan events. In that way there's no conflict of programs and more clubs can be involved. It also helps the Director know when and where these programs are so she can attend. I heard of some this year that I didn't know about which sounded great and would have liked to attend,

Until next time — stay warm, stay healthy, and stay' in touch with all the garden club activities.

Marie

For your yearbooks: In 2011, our incoming New York State President will take office in March. Our new National President and CAR Director, however, will not be installed until May.

Barbara Campbell

Hey You!!!! Yes -- You!!!

Aren't You a member of a local garden club? Of course You are! Well, when You paid your dues You also became a member of your county clubs and You also became a member of the Third District composed of eight counties (Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene-Schoharie, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Ulster). That's not all..... You also are a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. (10,000 members). And You are a member of CAR (Central Atlantic Region).

Are You impressed yet????? Well, You will be! You are also a member of National Garden Clubs, the largest gardening organization in the world, with national and international affiliates. This organization promotes the study of gardening, floral design, horticulture and landscape design and aids in the protection and conservation of our environment and natural resources and promotes civic beautification. It offers many resources for garden club members. So there!!!! Aren't You proud to be a member of your garden club - Plus - Plus - Plus & PLUS!!!!

Reneta Benenati

Digest Subscription Changes

The quarterly publication of the Third District *Digest* is currently available to all members, free of charge, on the Internet. Just go to the State's web site www.fgcny.com and then select District III and find our publication. You will be impressed.

At present, club presidents, vice presidents, District Board members, past District Directors, Judges' Council members, Landscape Design consultants, other District Directors, the State President and the editors of other District publications are entitled to a free copy of the *Digest*, pursuant to policy and procedures applied over time.

The cost of producing this document has become the largest annual expense the District incurs, and the subscriptions paid by approximately 30% of all dues-paying members do not even cover 1/2 of the costs. The decision to go online with our publication came after much discussion and input on how to reduce the cost to print and mail the *Digest*. It is the hope of the Board of Directors that those District members entitled to a free issue will pursue the Internet option and help reduce the financial burden that the hard copy of the *Digest* produces.

The Board of Directors will seek changes to the policy and procedures that pertain to this issue at its March meeting. The

Board anticipates that the last issue of the *Digest* to be mailed to all current recipients will be the May 2011 issue.

We realize some of you do not have computers and Internet access or may be uncomfortable using the Internet. Therefore, we will try to accommodate your wishes to continue to receive the *Digest* via regular mail. If you choose to do that, please notify Marge Lansing, Digest Circulation Editor, 17 Comely Lane, Latham, NY 12110, (518) 785-6312. **Be sure to include your phone number.** This information is to be provided no later than April 30, 2011. You will be asked to pay a \$4.00 annual subscription fee to help defray the cost of printing and mailing. Upon review of the actual costs, this fee may be changed in the future.

Those garden clubs and garden club members who are current subscribers and who choose the Internet option will be reimbursed the pro rata subscription payment for the issues that will not be mailed to them. Please provide me with your e-mail address so that you may be notified when each new issue becomes available online.

Marge Lansing,
Digest Circulation Editor

Butterfly Quiz

(from the website bellaonline.com)

1. Butterflies mostly rely on:

- A. Pollen
- B. Seeds
- C. Nectar
- D. Dew



2. A border of scented plants is a good way to attract butterflies.

- A. True
- B. False

3. Ivy blossoms attract:

- A. Bees
- B. Wasps
- C. Butterflies
- D. All of the above



4. Butterfly Bush is another name for:

- A. *Daphne odora*
- B. *Buddleia davidii*
- C. Snowberry
- D. Wild Cherry



5. The best plants to grow in your garden for butterflies are:

- A. Vegetables
- B. Grasses
- C. Mosses
- D. Perennials



6. Rotting fruit attracts butterflies.

- A. True
- B. False

7. The best way to attract butterflies is to:

- A. Dot their favorite plants around the whole garden
- B. Make your garden weed-free
- C. Plant their favorite plants in large clumps
- D. None of the above

8. *Sedum spectabile* is a good butterfly plant.

- A. True
- B. False



9. The best lavender for attracting butterflies is:

- A. French Lavender
- B. Italian Lavender
- C. English Lavender
- D. All of the above

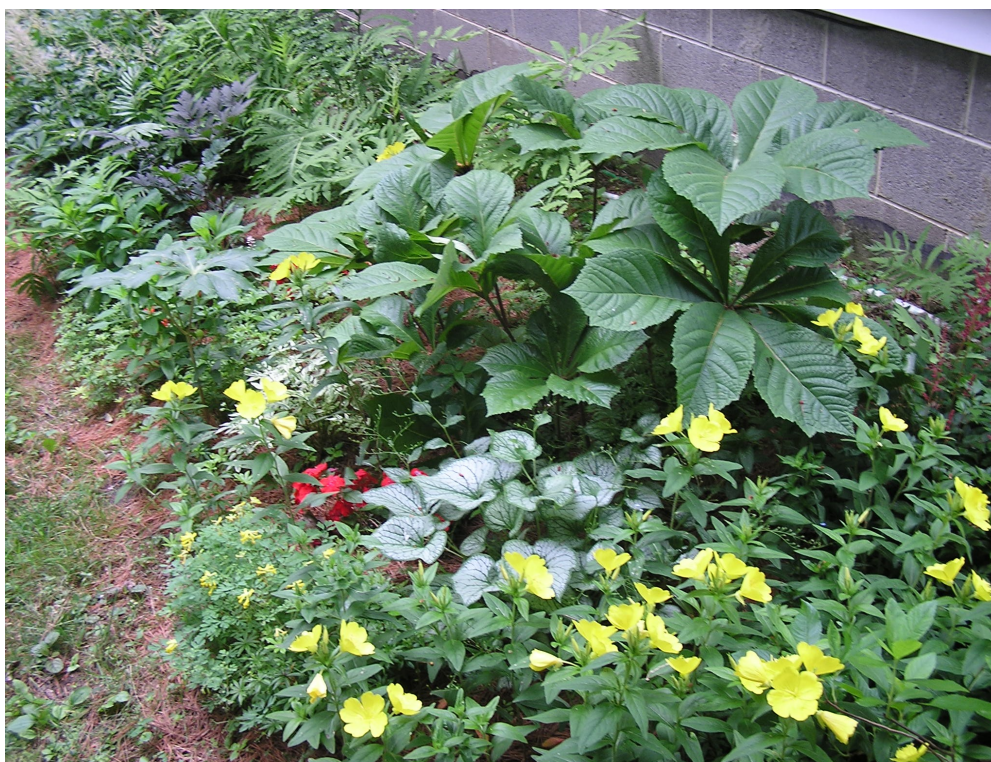
10. Butterflies are useful in your garden because:

- A. They are good pollinators
- B. They look beautiful
- C. Their caterpillars are an important link in the food chain for some birds
- D. All of the above



Answers: 1 - C; 2 - True; 3 - D; 4 - B; 5 - D;
6 - True; 7 - C; 8 - True; 9 - C; 10 - D

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If you have visited a beautiful public garden or a friend's lovely landscaped home and recall them with pleasure, the chances are that the use of the principles and elements of design have made them memorable. One of those elements, in particular, can turn a dull landscape into an interesting one, can make it unified and can satisfy the senses. Texture is the element that can work this magic.

The variety of contrasting textures is almost endless: smooth against rough, shiny against dull, soft against hard, rounded against sharp, fine against coarse. Using these textures can make a space seem wider or deeper, can lead the eye toward a focal point and can create patterns.

Textures are not limited to growing plants. Everything on your property has texture — brick or stone walks can be smooth or rough, as can walls and fences, which also provide shadows. Mulches can be fine or coarse, or have the smoothness of stones.

Generally, when areas are seen up close, textures are finer, more subtle; farther away, they can be coarse, larger, even a little gaudy. A grass area, by itself, can be boring, but with a brick path next to it or a contrasting ground cover it becomes interesting. Rhododendrons, with their glossy leaves, will show to advantage if the fronds of ferns are close by to set them off. A harmonious blend of textures makes any landscape special and satisfying to live with.

Article from the February 1997 *Digest* by Helen Nelson

Claverack Garden Club

A fragrant wreath of greens decorated with gingerbread people and cinnamon sticks was created by Claverack Garden Club member Louise Bliss. The wreath was the club's contribution to the Columbia County Historical Society's Gallery of Wreaths annual fund raising auction over Thanksgiving weekend.



For Veteran's Day Claverack Garden Club members created red, white & blue arrangement to honor Veterans. The photo is of the one that was placed in the Philmont Public Library next to the Veteran's honor roll. Blue lavender sprigs tied with red ribbon, white background and, blue frame.

Marge Chippari

Greenport Garden Club Officers Installed

At the home of club member, Carolyn West, the Greenport Garden Club held an installation ceremony at its December meeting. The traditional ceremony was conducted by Columbia County Co-Chairs Marilyn Ryan and Jean Smith. The club will celebrate its 35th Anniversary this year. Our theme - "Gardening for the Rest of Your Life" - will integrate the club's long history with programs that enhances emotional, physical and spiritual well being.

Our new slate of officers will lead us into the new year with vigor! Pictured from left to right are Jean Smith, Columbia County Co-Chair, 2011 club officers Kathy Bucholsky, Co-Chair; Carolyn West, Co-Chair; Cynthia Atkinson, Recording Secretary; Sue Dillhoff, Corresponding Secretary; Lynn Kowalski, Treasurer and Marilyn Ryan, Columbia County Co-Chair.

Maria Kolodziej-Zincio



Coming Up

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|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 17 | Third District Board Meeting, Pegasus Restaurant, Rte 9W, Coxsackie |
| March 19-31 | FGCNYS Annual Meeting and installation of officers, Gideon Putnam, Saratoga |
| April 15 | Deadline for May Digest |
| April 21 | Third District Spring Meeting "Terrific, Colorific Spring", Pegasus Restaurant, Rte 9W, Coxsackie |

A Message from the Editor

What would you like to see more of in future Digests:

Club News

Gardening How-To

Garden Design

Book Reviews

Nature

Federal, State and District News

Floral Design

Humor

Pictures, Pictures, Pictures



In addition to production and consumer cost savings and broadened availability, a big advantage to putting the *Digest* online is content expansion. With no fixed number of pages, we can run as many news and feature articles as we wish. Pictures are much more appealing - and revealing - in color than in black and white, and we don't have to think about the expense in determining how many to run. While I'm happy to show you my pictures (see page 10), I'd much rather show everyone yours.

I am very interested in incorporating more news from our individual clubs in this publication. A few clubs send in articles regularly, most only occasionally, some not at all. What projects are you doing, what special events have you recently held, or are planning? Let us help you share your accomplishments and celebrations with other clubs in our District. And online, perhaps with individuals and groups well beyond our District.

I'm also very interested in learning what you would like to see in future *Digests*. Would more how-to gardening information be helpful? Ideas on garden design? Descriptions of interesting new plant material? Floral design ideas? Reviews of gardening-related books? Articles on nature and ecological concerns? Pertinent developments in our national, regional and state organizations? A reader discussion page? Or how about a little humor? There are so many possibilities.

In short, I'd love to get feedback from more of you. Snail mail (2300 Spruce Drive, Valatie NY 12184) works, so does e-mail (junco@fairpoint.net). Or there's always the telephone (518) 758-7189. If you send pictures, e-mailed JPEGs are the easiest ways to go, but snail-mailed hard copies work fine, too. The *Digest* will continue to be a quarterly publication, so the deadline dates for the four issues remain the same: January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15.

Hoping to hear from you,

Maryann

A Third District Mystery

As Director of the Third District (2003-2005), I had chosen as my project, the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker. Fourteen dedicated women comprised the committee which planned the event, "Day of Roses," to raise the necessary funds to purchase the Blue Star Marker without help from any other organization. We did it all by ourselves with the cooperation of the many Third District members who supported our fundraiser.

In April 2005, the Third District dedicated a beautiful Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker on 1-90 (Westbound) at a rest area in Rensselaer County. With appropriate ceremony, the Marker was presented to the State of New York. It was a wonderful accomplishment for the Third District.

Well, that was in April 2005. Then, in November 2010, an announcement was made that that due to the state's fiscal crisis, the rest area on 1-90 (where our Blue Star Marker stood proudly) was going to be closed! So the state fiscal problems filtered down to us in District III. Driving by on a clear day, I couldn't get a glimpse of the Marker. Well, since one shouldn't gape and drive, I felt I simply missed it. To make sure that I had missed it, I asked others to affirm my fears, Just as I had surmised....it was GONE!!!! Where was it? Who took it? Would it appear at another plaza?

Needless to say, it was very upsetting! So, I proceeded to find the answers to solve this mystery. First, records were retrieved with names and phone numbers of DOT (Department of Transportation) and pertinent personnel who might have information. After several days of discouraging news it was clear that most if not all of the persons involved with us at the dedication ceremony had retired!!! Well, that didn't solve our problem.

Persistence did. After several more days of phone calls, there was a response from a gentleman from DOT who assured me that the Marker was safe. He explained that when a rest area closes, vandals attack with a vengeance and carry off whatever they can pry loose. In order to protect property, the State DOT personnel remove signs, etc. and store them for safe-keeping. So the workers removed our Marker from the steel post which was embedded in concrete in order to protect it. The gentleman even offered to have it delivered to my home if I felt it wasn't safe in their keep. He also mentioned that the rest area will probably be opened in a couple of years and be upgraded to a better facility.

Mystery Solved!

Reneta Benenati



to brighten up your winter

