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Director's Message

This Director held an open Board Meeting on March 15 at St. John the Baptist Church in Valatie so that members could experience a board meeting emulating the State ones. This Director attended the FGCNYS, Inc. Spring Meeting at Pearl River and even took the State President there and back.

This Director went to the open Judges Council meeting and took photos of Stretch and Synergistic Designs and had them displayed at the Third District Meeting "Springtime Splendor" for all to view.

This Director installed the officers of the Community Garden Club of Marlborough-on-Hudson in Milton and the officers of the Garden Club of Kinderhook in April. This Director presided over the Third District meeting at Birch Hill on April 19, for which she secured Julie Lapham as the presenter and compiled the program, had it copied, then collated and stapled it for the attendees.

This Director has planned and organized a trip to the Newport Flower Show "Salsa" on June 22, as well as a possible trip to the award-winning Rose Garden in Schenectady. At her Kinderhook residence a "Tea and Roses in the Garden" will be held on June 7 and a Dried Flower Workshop on September 20. There is a possibility that this Director will organize a workshop to create "Fairy Houses" in late August or early September. This Director will hold a Board Meeting in August, and notices will go out to that effect.

Roxie Berenati

Tea and Roses in the Garden

Please come and join the Director in her garden on Thursday, June 7, 2012 for some tea and refreshments at 1:30 in the afternoon. Please come to 18 Broad St., (Rte. 9) Kinderhook, NY.

R.s.v.p. before May 30



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

Clematis Garden Club - a Busy Season

April started a very busy season for Clematis Garden Club. On April 13 more than 90 people attended the Spring Tea and Lecture by Margaret Roach at the Greenville Library. Margaret gave a Power-Point presentation "Non-Stop Plants: Making a 365 Day Garden."

From Copake Falls, Margaret is the former editor-in-chief of Martha Stewart Living magazine and author of several books including *And I Shall Have Some Peace There* and creator of the *A Way to Garden* blog. In an hour we all felt that we had made a new friend and could have gardens like Margaret's, and now we are eager to visit her on open garden days. Six new members joined Clematis at the tea.



Club member and master gardener Dolores Ferrer chats with Margaret Roach at the Spring Tea and Lecture.

On May 11 Clematis member Pearl Capone celebrated her 90th birthday. She was presented with a certificate as a FGCNYS Life Member, which was awarded at the Spring District Meeting.



Also on May 11 Steve Whitesell, landscape architect from New York City, spoke at the regular meeting on *Design Inspirations for Small Gardens*. Steve has BFA and BLA degrees from Rhode Island School of Design and an MA in Garden History and Landscape Studies from Bard College. He is currently redoing his weekend garden in

Schoharie County, which was washed out by the flood last August.

On May 26 Clematis will hold our annual plant sale at Bryant's Country Square in Greenville from 9 to noon. Members will bring divisions from their gardens to sell. Perennials, annuals, houseplants, vegetable plants and shrubs will be offered at bargain prices. Carol Boyd, our World Gardening Chairman, is also in charge of the plant sale.

May 28 at 11 a.m. will be the Blue Star Memorial Marker Ceremony in the garden surrounding the Veterans Memorial in Joralemon Park in Coeymans Hollow. The garden was designed and installed as a club project last year under the direction of Joan Radley. We invite all garden club members and friends to join us on this occasion.

June 6 will be our third annual garden tour. This year six gardens in the Coeymans Hollow area will be featured. The tour runs from 3:45 to 7:30. Tickets and maps will be available at The Little Red Schoolhouse on Rt. 143 in Coeymans Hollow. The historic schoolhouse will also be open to ticket holders.

At the June 8 meeting club member Cynthia Willis will lead a hands-on workshop to decorate a hat for your door or to wear to your next garden party. Cynthia, a retired art teacher, designed the cover for our yearbook this year and is working on restoring the Preston Hollow Park, which was destroyed by Hurricane Irene. Clematis received a FGCNYS Disaster Fund grant to help with this restoration. In June the club will also present a horticulture award to a graduating senior from our area.

On June 27 Clematis will sponsor a bus trip to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the 9/11 Memorial Garden, with a quick shopping trip to nearby Canal Street. The bus will leave from Greenville at 7:15 and return at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. For more information on those or any of our events, please call President Mary Lou Nahas at (518) 722-8073 or email her at mlnahas@aol.com.

Mary Lou Nahas

Germantown Garden Club Gets Back to Basics

This summer, the *Germantown Garden Club* will be busy getting down to basics. The theme for our programs this year is "Back to Basics: Gardening 101." We will be learning a few gardening skills that some of us might not know about, as well as some that might be a refresher course for the more advanced.

At our March meeting we had a local florist, Donna Phelan of Floral Innovations in Germantown, give a presentation on "Home Flower Arranging 101." Donna gave us an insight into how a professional would design a flower arrangement. She started the arrangement with establishing a foundation of the greens in order to give the flowers a support to build upon. This was news to many of us attending, even the more advanced flower arrangers. It was nice to see that the meeting was attended by people from the general public as well as from other clubs.

One of our biggest fundraisers will take place on May 19, our annual plant sale. We will have plants for sale donated from our members, plus nursery-grown perennials and annuals offered for sale to the general public. Proceeds from this sale raise money for many of our philanthropic projects.

On June 26, the club will visit the gardens of Frank Almqvist, in Kingston. Frank and his wife Peggy are Master Gardeners in Ulster County and are members of the American Hemerocallis Society. Their garden consists of approximately 150 daylily varieties! This will be a "Daylily 101" moment. For our July 17 meeting, we will have a program about "Weeds and Weeding 101." Gloria Kadish a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener, will talk to us about identifying weeds, various methods for eradication, and how some weeds can actually be a part of a sustainable garden.



Darlene Loiler, new member of the *Germantown Garden Club*, Fran Bufi President and Melanie Nelson Recording Secretary, hold State awards presented at the Spring District Meeting. The club received First Place citations for its Standard Flower Show and newsletter and Second Place awards for its flower show schedule and press-book.

Please join us - our meetings are always open to the public. For more information, please call Fran Bufi, (518) 537-4868.

Karin Janson

Synergistic Design

On page 210 of *Handbook For Flower Shows*, 2007 revised edition, Synergistic Design is defined as a "Creative Design of three or more units." The units must be together, as one unit by itself will not achieve the effect that the designer intends to create. The Synergistic Design is dependent on the attraction between the units. This can be achieved by using containers, same plant material, several colors of one flower and use of connecting material. The design may be placed on a flat surface or suspended in space by use of a frame. In the book, *Designing by Types*, pages 133-135, designs demonstrate flat surface, several containers and frame for space.

Antoinette Babb

Spring District Meeting



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Ways and Means Shoppers

Teddy Bears Galore





Presenter Julie Lapham and some of her arrangements



Columbia County Chair Camille McComb, who assisted the presenter, poses with one of the arrangements.

A Director's Viewpoint

As a "recycled" Director, I shall take some liberties and address some issues which keep cropping up from time to time. One of these is the lament of some of the District III members - "What do we get from the State organization and National? "Why do we belong?" Well, I shall try to address these queries.

First of all, we are a part of the largest gardening organization in the world. That alone is inspiring. Its mission statement is: "The National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility."

Now for the "money" issue. The cost of membership is \$5.00; \$4.50 goes to the State Federation and \$.50 goes to National. Cheap, cheap, cheap!!! A Starbucks coffee costs almost that, and can you see a movie for \$5.00? How about some of those magazines on the newsstand filled with commercials for drugs, cosmetics, diets, etc. A single copy is in the vicinity of that \$5.00.

What do you get from National? There is much information listed in their free booklet. They offer many courses at a nominal charge, they publish the *National Gardener* (additional charge), they initiated the Blue Star Memorial Project throughout the United States. The Engagement Calendar is another publication and, of course, there is World Gardening, Water Conservation, Water for Sudan and various beautification projects.

The State organization emulates the National organization. There are Spring and Fall meetings, Flower Show, Horticulture, Landscape Design and Environmental Studies schools, as well as Symposiums and the Judges Council which provides judges for your flower shows. There are also trips, such as the one last year to Boston for the WAFSA show. The National and State organizations offer many perks that local clubs could not afford otherwise. Last but certainly not least is the fact that National Garden Clubs give 45 scholarships of \$3,500 dollars each to students. That's one in each state that applies. (A few states don't apply.)

Why wouldn't you take advantage of all this? What exactly do some members want or expect? Please let me know. In my thinking, members of an organization should and must support it - monetarily, physically and philosophically. What you derive from it is strictly up to you. Are you willing to participate? To learn? To listen? Instead of criticizing, you may voice your concerns, suggest improvements but also participate in committees, trips, events, so that you shall be



Attending the Third District Meeting were, seated: Marge Lansing, Reneta Benenati, Marilyn Ryan, Jean Smith and Beverly Kallner. Second row: Antoinette Babb, Lois Browning, Ellen Ullman, Maureen Nippert, Jan Hartmuller. back row: Jackie DiVirgillio, Betty-Jean Stinner, Janet Wierzchowski, Cathy Fruhauf, Camille McComb, Maryann Weber, Marie Muller, Sue Ihlenburg, Kit Ritz, Patricia Blundell, Patricia Sama, Lynn Fori and Hedy Qualtere

supporting a wonderful organization.

I have been involved with my own garden club since the early 80's, which makes me a member for approximately 30 years. To me, this whole experience, has been similar to a college education. My beginnings were basic, with the basic obligations. Attendance at meetings, serving on a committee, participating in a flower show, digging plants for a plant sale, etc., etc., etc. were typical obligations. In the course of time in my club, I learned much more than just about horticulture, floral design, environment and various related topics. I found that there was an amazing amount of talent and creativity in the membership and these individuals were willing to share it. There was something to be learned at every meeting and when that is compounded it's a LOT!

Now for the "awards" issue. Awards are rewards for those who aspired to do better. These are clubs who have spent time perusing the *Awards* booklet, which each club should have in its possession, and have spent time putting forth the effort to "go for it." It doesn't really matter if you earned a "First" or a "Honorable Mention" because you have achieved some progress. Please don't begrudge those awards. They show the pursuit of excellence and require motivation.

Another issue that has come to my attention at various times is that there is sometimes a group within a garden club that resents the way the club is being governed. These people will try to undermine the ones in office by threatening to drop out and hoping that the club will need to leave the state and National organizations. That is a very serious issue because a few unhappy individuals can destroy a historic association, since many clubs have been in the "Mother" organization since its inception.

I realize that we have many current problems because of ageing, communication and a bad economy. These can be overcome. An example is ME. I am frustrated because I feel I can't communicate since I am not online. I tried, but you can't teach an old dog new tricks! My fault! So, I shall try to reach you all via the U.S Postal Service.

The intent here was not to hurt anyone but to point areas of discontent. My goal was to make this a viable organization by seeking presenters that are well-known and knowledgeable. Several workshops were organized and trips planned and we will have more of those in the near future.

Finally, I feel grateful that I have had the opportunity to get to know so many of the talented and creative members in this organization.



Awards Opportunities

May is a good time for clubs to review your projects for the coming year. Many of them could fit into categories for District and State awards.

Awards are available for projects dealing with conservation, civic concerns and environmental issues (pages 7 and 8 of the State Awards Booklet). Your club's activities during National Garden Week are also eligible for an award (see page 9). Flower Show Awards cover five pages. Horticulture therapy, garden therapy, and historic preservation are great sources of interest to club members. (pages 17-22). So are publications and publicity (pages 25 and 26).

This has been just a brief overview of the Awards Booklet. This Chairman was pleased with all the entries submitted last year on the above-mentioned categories.

Patricia Blundell

National Garden Week: Columbia County Style

On Monday, June 4, Patrick Grattan, Chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, will issue a proclamation affirming Columbia County's participation in National Garden Club week Sunday, June 3, through Saturday, June 9. There are currently four nationally federated clubs in the county: Claverack, Germantown, Greenport and Kinderhook.



Club leaders meet with County Board of Supervisors Chairman.

Left to right: Kate Kennedy, Germantown Garden Club, Carolyn West, Co-President Greenport Garden Club, Kathy Bucholsky Co-President Greenport Garden Club, Patrick Grattan, Chairman Columbia County Board of Supervisors, Camille McComb, Columbia County Garden Clubs Chair and Garden Club of Kinderhook member, Melanie Nelson, Germantown Garden Club, Pat Sama, President Claverack Garden Club and Sandy Haemmerlein, Vice President, Garden Club of Kinderhook.

The Garden Club of Kinderhook will kick off the week-long celebration with a Standard Flower Show, "Down on the Delta," on June 2 and 3 at the Kinderhook Town Hall, 1-4 p.m. both days. Admission is free.. The club will also offer a garden tour in Kinderhook Village from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 3rd. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in front of the Village Hall.

On Tuesday, June 5, all four garden clubs will come together to celebrate Columbia County Day with a festive luncheon at the Winding Brook Country Club in Valatie. Erin Brady, an educational designer, will demonstrate her floral arranging concepts. There will also be a corsage-making lesson for all attendees.

The Germantown Garden Club will host a garden therapy event at the Senior Residence at the Palatine Manor on Wednesday, June 6.

Renee Benenati, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Third District Director, will host an afternoon "Tea and Roses in the Garden" on Thursday, June 7, at her home in Kinderhook. On the invitation Renee states: "We shall commemorate National Garden Week with tea and refreshments. Put on a frock with a floral design and perch a floral hat on your head. Come and have a good time just networking with other members of Third District."

On Friday, June 8, the Greenport Garden Club will garden at the Greenport Town Hall in a civic beautification project and present gardening books to the Hudson Area Library.

Also, there will be a Container Garden Workshop that day at 10 a.m. at the Classic Country Shop in East Chatham, owned by Meg Stratton. Marilyn Burke, noted teacher and designer, will present the class and explain the importance of using the correct planting medium for your plants. Attendees can bring their own containers or purchase a container there; planting medium will be provided and plants can be purchased at the shop.

On Saturday, June 9, the Garden Club of Kinderhook will present gardening books to the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Fran Heany

Fran, a member of the Garden Club of Kinderhook, has volunteered to be the Third District press book compiler and needs your help. Please send press clips about your garden club to her at 2148 County Route 9, East Chatham, NY 12060.

Claverack Garden Club

Upcoming events include:

Tuesday May 22, 9 AM - Civic beautification of the two town parks with planting of flowers for Memorial Day which will be maintained during the summer.

Tuesday June 5, 11 - 2:30 - participation at the Columbia County Garden Clubs' County day luncheon and program.

Thursday June 7, 10 AM - As part of National Garden Week members will participate in the civic beautification project of planting the Philmont Public Library's planters and large flower pots.

Saturday June 30, 10 AM to 2 PM - at Philmont Community Day the club holds the annual plant and bake sale which will include a benefit drawing of a rolling cooler filled with donated items and gift certificates.



Installation at the March meeting -- front: installing officer Mary Ginouves; back L to R: Treasurer Louise Bliss, Board member Joan Alexander, Corresponding Secretary Sylvia Schumann, President Patricia Sama, Vice-president Susan Ihlenburg, Recording Secretary Marge Chippari.



In February, on behalf of the club, members Marge Chippari and Jennie Kenas (on R) presented a floral arrangement for Valentine's Day to the child advocate and the director (on L) of the child Advocacy Center in Hudson. The arrangement was created by Jennie Kenas.

Marge Chippari

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.

“FLYING SOUTH”

1st Prize - A Week in Sarasota, Florida Condo

2nd Prize - \$250 3rd Prize - \$100

4th Prize - \$50 gift certificate for White Flower Farm

5th Prize - Design Container 6th Prize - Metal Sculpture

7th to 10th Prizes - gift certificates for National Restaurants

1 ticket
\$10.00

Drawing Tues., September 11, 2012, Binghamton, NY

Ticket holder need not be present to win

District _____ Ticket Number _____

3 tickets
\$25.00

Greenport Garden Club Participates in New York in Bloom



Vietnam



The Golden Door - Ellis Island

Under the City

It was springtime in February at the New York State Museum, and members of the Greenport Garden Club were among 100 floral designers from the Capital District Region participating in New York in Bloom, held at the New York State Museum in Albany. The event is the museum's signature fund raiser to recognize after-school programs for children and teens in the Capital District. Greenport Garden Club members (left to right) Kathy Bucholsky, Yetta Teo and Cecelia Sinclair designed floral arrangements that represented their assigned exhibit.

Millay Society Director Peter Bergman, members of the Garden Club of Kinderhook (Pat Knapp, Pat La Fountain, Carolyn Beveridge, Maryann Weber and Pat Leary) and helpers from the Berkshire Farm School celebrate Arbor Day with tree planting at Steepletop, the home of poet Edna St. Vincent Millay in Austerlitz.



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The Garden Club of Kinderhook
**A Garden Tour
& Flower Show**



Garden tour, Saturday, 6/2, 10am-3pm
Flower show, Sat/ Sun, 6/2-3, 1pm-4pm
*Purchase garden tour tickets (\$15) and/or
view the flower show FREE at
Kinderhook Village Hall*

Awards

State Awards

Life Membership Certificates were presented by their clubs to Pearl Capone (Clematis) and Marie Muller (Schoharie Valley).

Flower Show Schedule Award 19A.d.i
Germantown GC, 2nd Place

Flower Show Award 37ii
Germantown GC, 1st Place

Civic Achievement Award 6.d.ii
GC of Kinderhook, 1st Place

Civic Development Award 7ii
GC of Kinderhook, 2nd Place

Garden Therapy Award 39Bii
GC of Kinderhook, 1st Place

Horticulture Therapy
Award 40Ai - Greenbush GC, 1st Place
Award 39b - GC of Kinderhook, 1st Place

Landscape Design
Award 4 - Greenbush GC, 1st Place
Award45aaii - GC of Kinderhook, 1st Place
Award41Cii - GC of Kinderhook, 1st Place

Historic Preservation - 2nd place in various categories - Greenbush GC

Educational Exhibit Award17ii
GC of Kinderhook, Columbia County Fair, 1st Place

Publications - Newsletter
1st Place awards to Germantown GC, Greenbush GC and GC of Kinderhook; 2nd Place award to Clematis GC

Publications, - Misc.
Club Brochure - GC of Kinderhook 2nd Place
Coloring Book - GC of Kinderhook, 2nd Place
Membership Booklet - Greenbush GC, 1st Place

Pressbooks

Small Clubs - Greenport GC, 1st Place, Claverack GC, 3rd Place, Catskill GC, HM

Medium Clubs - GC of Kinderhook, 1st Place, Germantown GC, 2nd Place, Clematis GC, HM

Category B (Group or District) - Columbia County Garden Clubs, 1st Place

World Gardening

Athens Community GC, Coxsackie GC, GC of Kinderhook, Greenbush GC, H. Gilbert Harlow GC

Youth - Poster Contest, Timothy Lindstrom, sponsored by Athens Community GC, 3rd Place

Central Atlantic Region Awards

Standard Flower Show Schedule Award
Greenport GC, 3rd Place

Youth - Poster Contest, Timothy Lindstrom, sponsored by Athens Community GC, 3rd Place

Patricia Blundell



Country Garden Club of Clifton Park

In celebration of Arbor Day, the Country Garden Club of Clifton Park presented a program at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library, 475 Moe Rd, on Tuesday, April 24. Mary Kramarchyk talked about choosing and planting the right trees for the right places in the yard. Mary is the Coordinator for Urban Forestry with the NYS Dept of Conservation. Forester Dan Gaisdasz joined her to share his expertise.

Right: The club's spring garden at the library.

Catherine Fruhauf





Newport Flower Show
“Salsa”
 Friday, June 22, 2012
 The price - -\$75.00 - for this Latin theme show includes the round trip bus fare, admission to the flower show and dinner at the Old Country Buffet 1, Seekonk, Mass. (Tall ships will be in Newport then.) Bus departs 7 a.m.
 Please call Renee for more information and reservations at (518)758-7789.

Enter to Win!
Yearbooks

Club yearbooks for the annual contest should be sent to Barbara Campbell, 14 Deerpath Drive, New Paltz, NY 12561- 2811 by June 1, 2012.

Note change: Only one copy is needed.

Coming Up

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| May 18-19 | National Garden Clubs Convention "Explore the Wonders," Buffalo, NY. |
| June 1 | Yearbook Contest deadline |
| June 3-9 | National Garden Week - see inside for various planned activities |
| June 7 | "Tea and Roses in the Garden," see page 1 |
| June 22 | District bus trip to the Newport Flower Show "Salsa," see page 12 |
| July 15 | August Digest deadline |
| August 13-15 | FGCNYS, Inc. Symposium, Fishkill |
| Sept. 10-12 | State Fall Conference, Binghamton |

To list your club's events on the next **Digest** calendar, send information to editor Maryann Weber, 2300 Spruce Drive, Valatie 12184 or e-mail junco@fairpoint.net by July 15.