

The Buzz



Volume 3: Fall.2024

Letter from the editors:

The purpose of **The Buzz** is to give you a brief description of events, workshops, Zoom meetings, etc. that are happening on the State, Regional, and National level. We plan to give you enough information to pique your interest and a place to go to find out more information. Our goal is to provide you with a great deal of information in a quick read and one that is easy to print for future reference.

But we need to know if the information we provide is meeting a need, is useful, and worth our time and effort. Please email us with your opinion. Thanks.

Editor: Nancy Kalieta District 8

Co-editor: Anne Johnston District 7

Message from the President:

Welcome **to The Buzz**, your online and email hub for updates on the happenings within the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. Stay connected to stay informed about initiatives benefiting you and your clubs at the state, regional, and national level. Many opportunities exist to make this earth a better place for future generations.

Save the date: June 2-4, 2025, for the FGCNYS Convention and Installation at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. More information will be sent out in the new year. I hope that you can attend!

Last call: there are a few 100th anniversary pins left. For \$25 you can purchase a piece of history.
Donna Sessa FGCNYS President

Membership Track:

Your dues include membership in your club, your district, the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State (FGCNYS), the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs (CAR-SGC), and the National Garden Club (NGC).

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.

Vivian Greene

TRIVIA QUESTION: Name another insect that utilizes milkweed taking advantage of the protection this plant offers them? (see answer below)

FGCNYS: www.fgcny.com

The website has a wealth of information about Awards, Youth Contests, Projects, and much more. Plus, you can connect to both CAR and NGC.

Plans are being made to host Flower Show School in the spring. If interested, please contact Kim Thomson

For information about Awards, click on **Awards Information** tab. Purpose: to provide recognition for outstanding projects, activities, and people; advances 1st place winners to CAR-SGC and NGC for further acknowledgement. For example, Flower Shows, Garden Therapy, Historic Decoration, Landscape Design, and much more. Get your club involved in the Award Program.

CAR-SGC: www.car-sgc.org

Link to “**CAR Review**” the quarterly publication full of educational articles plus information from each of the seven states that make up our region.

Click on **What We Do** and then **Youth Programs** which lists Books & Activities for Grades 1-4 and Youth Contests.

NGC: www.gardenclub.org

Schools on ZOOM. Each school contains 4 courses which may be taken in any order.

Environmental School: topics include environmental literacy, sustainable development, land conservation, water conservation, air quality, and much more.

Course 2: March 24-27,2025 on zoom

Gardening School: topics include all aspects of gardening: soil, pruning, plant identification, trees, shrubs, plant diseases, perennials, annuals, and many more.

Course 2: February 10-12,2025 on zoom

Flower Show Symposium: in person

Mansfield, OH: April 29-30,2025

Basking Ridge, NJ: April 29-30,2025

NGC continued:

Go to **Member Resources** then **Video Café** then **NGC Video & Webinar Menu** to find videos about Gardening Tips, Floral Design, Techy Tips and much more.

Again, go to **Member Resources** then **Member Resources Library** for information about Parliamentary Procedures, A Guide for Club Presidents, and more.

More from the NGC website: Handbook for Flower Shows

If you are planning to stage a flower show or entering a horticultural or design exhibit in a show, you might want to check out the NGC Handbook for Flower Shows. It is easily accessible on the website.

On the website click on **Schools**, then **Flower Show School**, then **Flower Show Procedure** and the handbook is listed at the bottom of the paragraph. The most current updated version is there for you to read.

More from the NGC website: click on Awards and Grants

Ames Tools Grant: \$250 for select tools for community gardens or garden therapy **Apply:1/1-3/1/2025**

Natural Disaster Grant Fund: up to \$5000 for the purpose of assisting local and state garden clubs with their garden related restoration projects due to natural disasters. **Apply: anytime**

More from NGC website: click on Youth & Scholarships

Youth Pollinators Garden Grant: \$200 direct expenses for an educational program. Plus, a 23-page Pollinator Booklet filled with information and activities. **Apply: anytime**

Miscellaneous Information:

Department of Environmental Conservation www.dec.ny.gov

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) will be May 4 - 10, 2025—Save the Date! This upcoming year's ICAW 2025 theme, Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost! highlights composting in all kinds of communities at any scale - from the backyard home composter to community composters, to large-scale facilities and all those in between. For more information: <https://compostfoundation.org>

Help Collect Seeds for the DEC Tree Nursery: Did you know DEC has its own tree nursery? The Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery produces more than 1.5 million seedlings annually, maintains more than 200 acres for seed production and has orchards located across the state, and is currently growing more than 6 million seedlings of over 50 different species! The Nursery needs your help! Due to seed shortages, the Nursery is looking to purchase fruit and cone from the public for the seed procurement program. For more information on the seed collection and purchasing processes, [visit the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery webpage.](#)

From Cheryl Bennett, co-president Merrick GC: You might wish to inform members about ELA, ecological landscape alliance, ecolandscaping.org. They have EXCELLENT zoom lectures on native plants. I highly recommend joining them.

Fascinating Facts About NY State

Did you know that bobcats are the only surviving wild feline with a breeding population in New York State making their presence truly special.

In the early 1900's they were hunted almost to extinction but thanks to the federal Endangered Species Act and conservation efforts they are quietly existing in the wild.

The DEC with researchers from the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Cornell University are actively tracking them in an effort to discover just how many bobcats are actually in existence.

Did you know that approximately 40-50 tons of cargo on ships from all over the world travel through the St Lawrence Seaway each year. Construction was completed in 1959 and dedicated by President Eisenhower and Queen Elizabeth II.

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows. Doug Lardon

New Uses for Plants:

Sunflowers are not just beautiful; they are also hyperaccumulators, capable of absorbing heavy metals like lead, arsenic, and uranium from the soil, making them excellent for phytoremediation.

Sugarcane bagasse, the fibrous waste left after juice extraction, is increasingly being used to produce biodegradable plates, bowls, and cups, offering an eco-friendly alternative to plastic.

Algae can produce up to 300 times more oil per acre than traditional crops used for biofuels, making it a highly promising source of sustainable energy.

Trivia answer: Red milkweed beetle. (The beetles feed on the sap but it contains chemicals which makes them distasteful to birds who otherwise might snack on them).

Success is sometimes the outcome of a whole string of failures.
Vincent van Gogh