

X District NEWS

July 2026 – Vol. 2 – Issue 3

A note from the Director,

It was such a pleasure seeing you all at the District X Breakfast Meeting hosted by the Community Garden Club of Pine Bush. I truly enjoyed the opportunity to connect and hear about all the wonderful things happening across our District X garden clubs.

I am looking forward to attending upcoming meetings with the Artful Gardeners, Port Jervis, and the Roscoe-Rockland Garden Club, and continuing to learn more about your inspiring work.

District Director,

Betty

Join Artful Gardeners, Thursday July 23rd at 1 pm at the Port Jervis Free Library Community Room (lower level) for a design presentation on Multi-rhythmic and Reflective Designs by NGC Master Judge, Jane Madis.

Please email artfulgardenerspj@gmail.com to let us know you're attending!

SAVE THE DATES

Opposites Attract

by Artful Gardeners

Small Standard Flower Show (Port Jervis Free Library)

September 25 & 26, 2026

Free & Open to the Public

(Email artfulgardenerspj@gmail.com if you are interested in entering a design or horticulture)

District X Annual Meeting and Fall Luncheon

September 30, 2026
Limoncello, Goshen, NY

More Information Coming Soon - Save the Date

Flower Show School COURSE 4

October 6-8, 2026

Cornell Cooperative Extension Albany County
24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186

REGISTRAR: Gail Berti chiara215@aol.com

Central Atlantic Region (C.A.R.-S.G.C.)

October 19-20, 2026

Cleveland, Ohio

NGC-FGCNYS Flower Show Symposium

November 3-5, 2026

Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY
info: suzy.trager@gmail.com

Important Items:

The [District X](#) website has been updated and now has a password protected page just for members. The Password is **DX2026**

Send any club information and photos to district.x.fgcnys@gmail.com to be included in the next newsletter.

Horticulture Hints:

Creating a Pollinator Watering Station in Your Yard

By Nancy Hajeski (Horticulture Chair)

Although planting nectar-rich flowers is a good first step toward inviting bees, butterflies, and other pollinators to your yard, providing a reliable water source is just as critical. Like all animals, pollinators need hydration to survive, but they face a unique challenge: open, deep water sources like pools, birdbaths, or deep puddles can be drowning hazards for small insects.

By creating a dedicated, safe watering station, you can support your local ecosystem and turn your garden into a bustling wildlife sanctuary.

Step 1: Choose the Perfect Container:

Start with a shallow container. A glazed ceramic plant saucer, a resin birdbath bowl, or even a wide, shallow terracotta dish works beautifully. The container should be no more than two to three inches deep. A shallow profile ensures the water stays accessible and prevents it from becoming stagnant too quickly.

Step 2: Add Landing Pads

This is the most crucial step for insect safety. Honeybees, bumblebees, and butterflies cannot swim, and they cannot easily land on deep water surfaces. You must provide ample "islands" where they can safely land and sip moisture.

- **River Rocks and Pebbles:** Arrange a mix of smooth river stones and colorful pebbles across the bottom of the dish.
- **Marbles:** Glass marbles look beautiful under the sun and offer perfect, curved platforms for tiny insect feet.
- **Twigs and Moss:** Add a few rustic twigs or patches of natural moss. Moss acts like a natural sponge, soaking up water and allowing bees to suck moisture directly out of it without ever touching open water.

Ensure that the tops of the rocks, marbles, or twigs stick up just above the water level.

Step 3: Location and Maintenance

Place your watering station in a protected, partially shaded area of your yard, ideally near pollinator-friendly flowers and in a spot that is sheltered from heavy winds but catches enough morning sun to warm up their wings. Keep it at ground level or slightly elevated on a flat stone.

To keep your local pollinators healthy, consistency and cleanliness are key:

Refresh Daily: Fill the basin just enough to leave the tops of the stones dry.

Prevent Mosquitoes: Because standing water can attract mosquitoes, empty and rinse the dish every two to three days. This disrupts the mosquito breeding cycle without requiring harmful chemicals.

Skip the Soap: Never wash the station with harsh detergents or bleach. Instead, use a stiff brush and clean water to scrub away any algae or debris.

A Scent Secret: If bees ignore your station at first, do not worry. Bees hunt for water using their sense of smell. Clean tap water has very little scent. To tip them off, add a tiny pinch of sea salt or a splash of pond water to the basin. The subtle mineral scent acts as a homing beacon, signaling to the scouts that a safe, mineral-rich hydration oasis is awaiting them.

DISTRICT X Flower Show 2027 - "Welcome to My Neighborhood"

Jane Madis & Sue Trager - DX NGC Judges

Hello Members!

Jane and I are very excited to be working on the schedule for the upcoming Flower Show scheduled for mid-September 2027. We wanted to make sure that every member has enough time to plan, plant and create for the upcoming District Show - "Welcome to My Neighborhood". There are eight clubs in the district and we're trying to make sure that each club represents their "neighborhood"! For example, some potential designs may include:

- Artful Gardeners: Traditional Line Design (railroad, highway, canal)
- Clarkstown: Multi Rhythmic (Down the garden path)
- Cornwall: Traditional Mass (revolutionary war)
- Liberty: Creative Design (Borscht Belt, Woodstock, ???)
- Middletown: Creative Line Design (Erie Railroad)
- Pine Bush: Illuminated (A UFO!!)
- Roscoe-Rockland: Underwater (Fly fishing)
- Warwick: EITHER - Parallel (Farmer's Gold) OR Reflective Design (Let's go to the Movies)

Nothing is set in stone yet, so, if you have an idea for your garden club's Design Class name, please email Jane (janemadis@gmail.com) or myself (suzy.trager@gmail.com). We're also happy to visit your club and give a design or horticulture program.

Congratulations to all the clubs that received awards at the July Board Meeting hosted by Community Garden Club of Pine Bush! What a lovely breakfast, table raffles and informative meeting. Awards were given out by Betty Jessup and Awards Chair, Susan Parry. Warwick outdid themselves again this year-A job well done!

Awards are not difficult and there are many out there to choose from or maybe your club has a youth program: Contact the chairs below for more information...

DX Awards Chair	Susan Parry	parry2@frontiernet.net
Youth Programs:	Catherine Prezioso	cprezi@hvc.rr.com

The July Board Meeting includes Elected Officers, committee chairs and club presidents who give reports regarding their clubs, their committees and information about the DX, FGCNYS and other important facts to keep us in the "KNOW",



Susan Parry, Awards Chair

