# THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC. CONTROL OF CON

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# **CLUBS IN DISTRICT III**

District Three Clubs, by County

Albany: Blue Creek, Guilderland,

Helderview

Columbia: Germantown

**Dutchess:** Tioronda

Greene-Schoharie: Athens

Community, Clematis, Schoharie Valley

Rensselaer: Greenbush

Schenectady: The Garden Explorers

**Ulster:** Community Garden Club of Marlborough, New Paltz, Saugerties Society of Little Gardens, Shawangunk



# From the Director



I hope you have taken time to relax and enjoy your gardens with family and friends during the summer months. As Fall approaches, our Assistant Director Linda Levitt is working to finalize plans for our Annual Fall District meeting which will take place on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at the Pegasus Restaurant on Route 9W in Coxsackie, NY. We are incorporating suggestions that were made at our previous meetings to make your experience a more enjoyable one. Most notably, we will have a buffet

style luncheon, coffee, fresh fruit and pastries upon arrival, along with a shorter meeting at a more affordable price.

Our New York State President, Beth Walker, has been invited to attend and she is looking forward to meeting all the wonderful members of her District. The Fall meeting is always special, since we will present the many awards that our clubs have received during the past year. I hope to see each of our 14 District clubs represented at the Fall meeting.

Each club president who was unable to attend the Presidents Leadership Forum at the State Convention in June will receive a copy of the newly revised Club Presidents Manual. It contains everything that a new or existing club president would need to manage the day-to-day operations of their club. It also provides guidance for all phases of leadership positions within your clubs.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in October for our Harvest Time Gardens & Gatherings Fall District meeting. See page 13 for registration information.

Take care, *Gary Barrack, Director* 

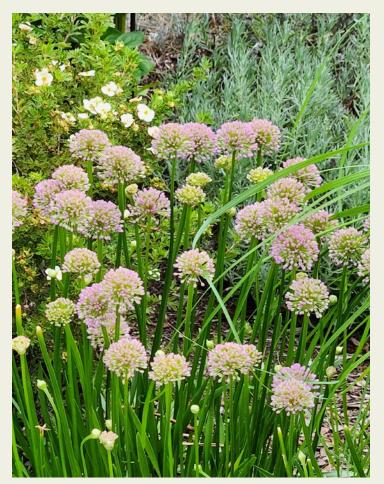


We enjoyed our July board meeting and lunch at Red's Restaurant in Coxsackie.



# Allium—The Other Spring Bulb

By Linda Levitt, Horticulture Chair



I am sure that most of us have the early Spring blooming daffodils, narcissus, hyacinth, etc. in our yards.

I attended a harvest festival at the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge, MA last October. At this event, they offered many varieties of Allium bulbs. So, I couldn't resist, and I decided to purchase a few varieties. The blooms ranged in size and color from a couple of inches to as large as 12.

The varieties that I purchased all bloomed at the same time this year as my other spring flowering bulbs. Since they are a member of the onion family, the deer never touched those plants or any of the surrounding plants. That is not to say that I lost a few leaves to rabbits.

The bulbs are planted in the fall and will bloom best when planted in full sun. These bulbs also do well in containers. They do not like soggy soil and actually can be planted in gravel gardens.

There are, of course, a few exceptions to everything. There are varieties of Allium that will bloom late summer—one called Onion 'Millenium.' With the heat we are having this summer, they are blooming in my garden right now.

Allium are drought tolerant which seems to be a necessity these days in order to get blooms.

I encourage all of you to give it a try—they are easy to grow and will give that extra pop of color in the spring among the sea of yellow. In fact, the large globe allium looks great even after the bloom has dried so that you can enjoy them all summer long. Happy planting!



#### ANNOUNCING OUR NEW WEB SITE!

FGCNYS has chosen a new website provider: Hostinger. They offer web hosting solutions that are affordable—such as domain names and websites. The platform uses powerful AI tools to make websites, but you can easily customize parts and pages to suit your needs. Third District used to be a webpage within the FGCNYS website. Now we have our own website: fgcnysdistrict3.org. The new site is more engaging to our member clubs. Our district website will also be a link on the state page. Our Resource Page is password protected. If you'd like access, please email: kjanson@aol.com.

Go To Website

# Some Ideas For Gaining New Members

By Rosemary Eshghi Membership Chair, FGCNYS, Inc.

When I became president of my club, about 10 years ago, I found that many of our new members—19 one particular year—came from a small committee run by a quiet, grandmotherly member. That trend has continued to this day, although not 19 every year! But we have sustained our membership at over 90 for a very long time.

Here are some tips that has helped us gain and retain members.

#### A Committee Dedicated to Junior Gardeners

Our club has a committee with a chair who has also been very successful with her programs for engaging children in elementary school. Every month she has a small new project for the children to do in our local library.

The children learn about plants, birds, bees, etc. and they come home with a project that they can discuss with their parents. Often the parents have no idea about how to grow things or what is going on in their garden, and they become curious. Keep the projects simple, ex., a windowsill herb garden in winter.

# **Contact Your Local Library**

Libraries will often be eager to have a new program that generates interest and will possibly provide materials.

They will help you arrange a particular space for children or adults to meet, and the library will help to put the program in its schedule on their website. One president from District IX told me that her library was so thrilled to get a program that the staff provided all the materials. My club did a floral arranging workshop at the library that was very well attended.

## **Contact Your Village or Town**

I had a "duh" moment a few days ago. When reading my local town email newsletter, I noticed many brightly colored event announcements—one from a local nonprofit. Why was our garden club event news not also listed? Good question!

#### Your Club Website

Keep it up to date. My club got many new members from people perusing the internet looking for a local garden club, and they liked our website.

## **Local Gatherings**

Is there a college, county, or Rotary that is having a festival? Your publicity chairman will keep up with these

events and help you participate, get a table and tent to share your info.

Keep it simple but have samples of plants with info, a floral arrangement (possibly do a workshop). My club has a stack of large, attractive bookmarks with all club information on it that they give away.

Above all—make sure your club membership application is available!

#### Around the State and Across the USA

What are other clubs doing? Can you get some ideas from them? Check in with the FGCNYS.com. The NGC website is GardenClub.org

# Trends in Gardening

Not everyone wants to be in a flower show. As you know, native plants are being featured more frequently in gardening magazines and websites. Get to know your local native plant organizations and team up with them.

Floral arranging workshops are very successful in my club, and we did a floral exposition (not judged) that gave members a chance to show off what they've learned.

One year we arranged to have a wine and cheese reception in the evening at our local historical society to celebrate our elegant designs. It was good for us and for the historical society.

## **Local Eyesore**

Every town has one! We found a neglected "pocket" in our town between two buildings that had been a small garden. Our members took it over, the town made sure we had access to water, and put in a few benches; after a few years, it is a beautiful place of calm and afternoon shade. We received permission to put up our sign from the town.

We use it to teach members about what works in a garden. They also learn hands-on skills in gardening when they participate with our seasoned members.

#### **Garden Tours**

You probably already do this. It doesn't have to be more than three gardens but, again, have your club info and application forms at each site.

# **NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB**

**ULSTER COUNTY** 

By Margaret McDowell, President

Welcome to summer, it is well past half over. Amazing how fast it goes.

We generally do not have formal meetings over the summer but this year—our now new member shared her beautiful rock garden with us. She hosted us last year and we returned to see new features added. We appreciate the generosity of our new and old members when they share their expertise and show off their beautiful gardens.

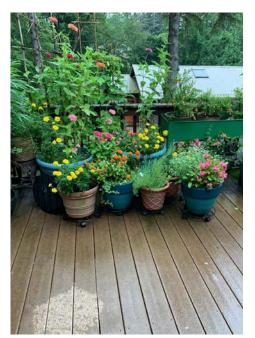
At our June meeting we were hosted by an older member who showcased her amazing garden. The garden is divided into multiple areas by stone walls and tree separations. Water features are also part of the landscaping as well as beautiful garden statues. Our members brought flowers from their gardens and we choose the winning bouquet and auctioned all the bouquets off for our annual High School scholarship fund. Additionally members brought a variety of snacks and desserts—showcasing their culinary expertise.

Our members will be working all summer to maintain our two community gardens and picking our winners for the town's beautification awards.

Hope you all have a happy, restful and safe summer.



Above and below: Pictures of New Paltz Garden Club members' gardens in the summer.







# GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

**COLUMBIA COUNTY** 

By Irene Clum, President

This has certainly been a summer for the record books! It's been a real challenge keeping up with the garden and yard work in 90+ heat! Remember the cold days of winter??!

The club held its very popular Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 17, at Palatine Park, Germantown. Our sale included locally grown nursery plants available for purchase including annual flowers, perennials, vegetables, and herbs. Garden club members provided houseplants and seedlings. We also offered a Gardening Tag Sale and a delicious Bake Sale. Funds raised at this event supports the club's Germantown High School Scholarship Fund and other vital donations and projects for the town that the club provides.

We held our annual luncheon at Red's in June. It was a big success with 15 attendees. It's a nice venue with great food and the added benefit of ordering off the menu and separate checks.

Barbara Campbell came to our July meeting and demonstrated six designs we will be using in this year's flower show. Members had some very good questions for her as well.

For well over 95 years, our club has held an annual Standard Flower Show. This year, it will take place on Saturday, August 23, from 1–4 p.m. and on Sunday, August 24, from 1–3 p.m., at the Kellner Activity Building, located on Palatine Park Road in Germantown. The show will feature flower arrangements, educational displays, and horticultural specimens. This year, the Germantown Garden Club's show title is "A Garden...Here, There, and Everywhere." The design and horticulture classes will offer this theme for their entries.

The design division will feature fresh and dried flower arrangements in six classes. The horticulture division will include individual flowers, herbs, branches, and containergrown plants, as well as vegetables. The show is open to the public and admission is free. It's a great opportunity for everyone to see different types of horticulture available at this time of year, and to view beautiful and inspiring flower arrangements, and maybe learn something new, too!

On Tuesday, September 16 we will visit Clermont State Historic Site. Our October 14 meeting will feature Rebecca Polmateer of Cornell Cooperative Extension who will teach us about preserving herbs. This meeting is at noon in the Hover Room of the Library.

The Fall District 3 meeting will be held at Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie on Thursday, October 16. Our own Linda Levitt organized this and it sounds like a great meeting with a buffet lunch. Awards will be given out at this meeting.





Our Annual Spring Plant Sale is a big fund raiser for the club.

# **GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB**

ALBANY COUNTY

By Linda Miller and John Haluska

If interested in coming to any Guilderland Garden Club programs our meetings are open to the public. Check out our website or Facebook page for more information.

In May, we had a presentation on beekeeping with Jeff Taft. In June, we invited Lee Ryan, Master Gardener, to discuss Dahlias. The July meeting was held at Indian Ladder Farm in Voorheesville to learn "How to Grow Mushrooms" by Avery Stempel (See photo courtesy of Marguerite Hill) In July, we are looking forward to our first field trip to Cooperstown to the Brookwood Point Conservation Area.

In between programs, the Club had a tag sale and a plant sale fund raiser in the spring. The plant sale coincided with our participation in the NYS Path Through History Day with the Guilderland Historical Society. Several Club members provided breakfast to those members who participated in the FGCNYS spring Flower Show School held in Voorheesville. Several members attended the FGCNYS Convention in Albany.

This year we participated and provided a floral arrangement for our "Hometown Heros Honoree Program" that was held at Tawasentha Park in Guilderland. Our Garden Therapy Day was spent with residents at Our Lady of Mercy Life Center Nursing Home planting raised beds and making arrangements with the residents. Our annual scholarship went to a deserving student at Guilderland High School. We would like to invite everyone to visit the gardens we maintain at the Mynderse-Frederick House and the historic Schoolcraft House. We would also like to invite everyone to attend our upcoming Open House and Greens Show scheduled for December 5–7 to be held at the Mynderse-Frederick House in Guilderland Center.

Top: GGC donated plants for the Guilderland Library. (L-R Linda Miller, Linda Walter, Peter Petruski (Library Director), Michael Puspers, Maureen McNamara, and Delia Gunning) Center left: Donated arrangement for Guilderland's Home Town Hero's program. Center right: Learning about how to grow mushrooms.

Bottom: The Mynderse Frederick House in Guilderland. Gardens maintained by Club members.









# SAUGERTIES SOCIETY OF LITTLE GARDENS

ULSTER COUNTY
By Dale Winchester, President

The club's annual Plant and Bake Sale on Saturday May 17 was a success and one of our two annual fund raisers. Additionally, the club is holding a raffle for a gorgeous homemade quilt, created by club members Susan Campbell and Delores Brink. Club members have been selling tickets at the Saugerties Farmers Market during the summer. Additionally, the club completed our spring plantings in the village.

On June 3 the club was honored to host the reception at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY for our member, Beth Walker, following her induction as NY State Federated Garden Clubs in coming president. On June 11 the club held our annual picnic at the beautiful White Feather Farm in Saugerties. Club members were able to tour the gardens and hear about the organization's activities.

With July and August being set aside for members to tend their gardens and relax, we will resume activities in September. This includes a field trip to the Hudson Valley Seed Company and removing our spring flowers in order to plant mums.

Top: Members, Silka Benz and Patricia Morrow designed a patriotic garden that was planted in the horse trough at Seamon Park. The trough was moved to the park from the intersection of Main and Partition Streets in the village years ago. Pictured are Silka Benz (left) and Dale Winchester (right).

Bottom: Club members, Toni Weidenbacher and Diana Buchan shown with the club's banner.





# **TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB**

**DUTCHESS COUNTY** 

By Gary Barrack, County Chairman

The Tioronda Garden Club has been busy maintaining its many gardens throughout the City of Beacon. In May, 68 hanging flower baskets along with 12 large flowering planters were installed along the Main Street Business District.

At our April meeting, Executive Director and founder of the Bannerman Castle Trust, Neil Caplan, gave a presentation on Bannerman's Island, a tiny jewel in the setting of the Hudson River. He focused on the restoration of the many gardens at the site.

In May, Beacon Beekeeper and club member Selma Karaca presented a program on pollinator bees. She also produces honey and offered samples of two different varieties which she produces at her home in Beacon.

Our third annual "Secret Gardens of Beacon" tour was a tremendous success with the largest turnout since its inception. In June, the club conducted a joint field trip to Blithewood Gardens at Bard College with members of our neighboring Verplanck Garden Club. The club's annual "Member Appreciation Picnic" in July was very well attended. We take a break for the summer months, returning to our regular meeting schedule in September.











Top left: At the club's "Member Appreciation Picnic" in July, Club President Gary Barrack presented Theresa Kraft, President of the Howland Cultural Center and club member, with a check for \$500 to help fund the ongoing Portico Restoration Project. The center, a National Historic Landmark, was designed by Richard Morris Hunt in 1872, and has been home to the Tioronda Garden Club for the past 96 years. Top right: Welcome to Beacon flower planter presented by the Tioronda Garden Club at the Metro-North Train Station welcomes tourists and commuters each day.

Above: Members enjoy a guided tour of the Blithewood Gardens and Estate located on the grounds of Bard College, Annandale on the Hudson, just north of Rhinebeck, NY.

Left: Hanging flower baskets and large flowering pots adorn the mile long business district of Beacon, compliments of the Tioronda Garden Club working in conjunction with our partners at the Beacon Highway Department.

# SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

**ULSTER COUNTY** 

By Sophia Browne

We celebrated our May meeting on May 5th with a maypole display and a hosting committee treat from recipes of a 2004 Shawangunk Garden Club Cookbook! Our members loved these special treats. We heard about viable native grasses and plants interacting with pollinators.

Our Mother's Day outdoor plant sale was on May 10th at the Hunt Building. Our only fund raiser. Members are always available to assist our early morning buyers for our best plants. In May, we always check all our village planters and resuscitate them when necessary for the season.

In June, we had our plant exchange at Lippman Park along with our pizza party. We never have leftovers. Definitely following our theme of food waste and composting. Scholarship awards were presented at our yearly club luncheon.

July's meeting was definitely a treat at Sue Trager's home and business in Ellenville giving us an opportunity to appreciate being in a forest environment—walking among trees and nature's offerings. Sue and her husband offer 'Off-road Adventures' and activities for the mobility impaired. Our members roamed the area.

August's meeting will be at Ellenville's local Library. Our main focus is the Blueberry Festival (August 9) held every summer in Ellenville. We occupy the first two tents as you enter. We have fresh flowers, plants, hand-made items, and garden items for sale. It is definitely a fun and challenging experience. Our meeting topic will be focused on houseplants and indoor air toxins.

September's meeting will be testing our knowledge of everyday forest items used for food, medications, and pleasure via a slide presentation and talk—Gifts from Nature. A scarecrow workshop will be held at Lippman Park on September 28. Upon completion, they will be installed all around downtown Ellenville through the end of October.

October is our fall fun month. We visit our favorite Arboretum to enjoy the fall sites and colors. We provide centerpieces for the Ellenville Hospital gala. We will attend the Fall District Luncheon in Coxsackie. Our meeting will be about the use of plastic in our lives.

The last few years we had a chili contest. This year, we are having a seasonal crop soup contest with three prizes.

Our club contributes to local food pantries, participates in an Adopt a Highway program, provides school scholarships, and donates to the Dig Deep Navajo Indian Water Project monthly!









Top: Mother's Day Plant Sale at the Hunt Building.

Center: Lippman Park plant exchange and pizza party: Sylvia Fogarty, Helene Morris, Renee Augustine, Sylvia Russo, Toni Gagan, Jeff Wittenberg, and Fern Schor.

Bottom left: May Cleanup: planter clean up at warehouse in Ellenville with Valerie Sherry, Lilian Green, Sue Harris, and Pat Macgregor. Bottom right: Sophia Browne at Northeast Off-Road Adventures demonstrating one of the specialized vehicles for the mobility impaired.

# COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB OF MARLBOROUGH ON HUDSON

**ULSTER COUNTY** 

By Linda Fogarty

At our May meeting we created small flower arrangements which were delivered to meals on wheels for Mother's Day. In June we had a successful membership luncheon at the home of Beverly Sharp. We have two new members!

In July, we joined with our local Historical Society to support a Garden Tour. We were thrilled to host what we hope will become an annual plant sale. We made a nice profit which will go towards our ongoing renovation of the gardens at the Desmond Estate in the town of Newburgh.

We have some interesting meetings coming up including a talk on bees—how to provide for them in our gardens.







Above left: Our club president, Ingrid Mazzola. Above right: Club members Kathy Hopper, Rosalie Bento, and Lynne Arnold. Bottom: Members Jean

Bottom: Members Jean DiNapoli, Linda Fogarty, Ingrid Mazzola, and Lynne Arnold.

# THE GARDEN EXPLORERS

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

By Madonna Warczak

Garden Explorers was organized and joined FGCNYS in 1995. We currently have 29 members. Our focus this year is living in harmony with nature and promoting Wildlife-Friendly Gardens by following the National Wildlife Federation Recommendations.

We have an annual plant auction to raise funds for our club and to enjoy an evening of camaraderie. We each take cuttings or bring plants from our own gardens to offer for auction.

In June, we visited Breitenbach garden and castle in Altamont, NY, which is dedicated to preserving and presenting the artistic legacy of T.E. Breitenbach. This site presents his famous and humorous "Proverbidioms" paintings and other exhibits. We toured his hand-built castle and studio, beautiful grounds, stone walls, woodland trails, and a new sculpture walk. Many of his paintings were made into posters and sold to puzzle companies.

Another great trip was made to Wethersfield Estate and Garden. This is considered the finest classical garden in the United States. It was built in the second half of the 20th century on 1,000 acres of rolling hills in Armenia, NY.

After viewing Weathersfield, we were on to Innisfree Garden, nestled on 185 acres in Millbrook, NY. It is a quintessential American stroll garden designed with Chinese and Japanese garden design principles.

We have events planned each month and make donations to each site in appreciation of the hard work involved in maintaining these beautiful gardens. We also support the Navaho water project.

The Garden Explorers have been active in the creation and continued beautification of the Niskayuna Library for over 25 years. Community volunteers are encouraged to participate weekly in the care of the garden led by club members.





Above left: Entrance to Breitenbach Castle in Altamont NY. Home of the artist T.E. Breitenbach.

Above right: The garden we maintain at the Niskayuna Library.

# Clubs' Calendar 2025

# August 23-24, 2025

Germantown Garden Club Flower Show Kellner Activity Building Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY

# October 16, 2025

District III Fall Meeting
Pegasus Restaurant
10885 State Route 9W, Coxsackie, NY

#### October 20-22, 2025

CAR Conference
Hyatt Regency
100 Heron Boulevard, Cambridge, MD

### December 5-6, 2025

Germantown Garden Club Christmas Market Kellner Activity Building Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY

## December 5-7, 2025

Guilderland GC Open House & Greens Show Mynderse-Frederick House 451 NY-146, Altamont, NY



# NEW 2025 AWARD MANUAL AND NEW APPLICATION FORM

By Jean H. Horn and Terry Buel, Third District Award Chairs

If you are considering submitting an award to Third District in 2025, there have been changes this year. The Awards Manual and Application Form can be found on the FGCNYS website on the Awards Information tab or by going to this link: https://fgcnys.com/awards-information

You can download the following information:

#### • FGCNYS Awards Manual

Lists all available awards along with information on what information is needed and the date to submit.

#### • 2025 Awards Application

This is the actual application that you will need to download. It includes deadlines for submitting your application.

#### • Past 2024 Awards

View the winners of 2024 to see if your club won!

Note: We are requesting that you submit paper copies of your award, and not sending applications online. Please send your application for an award by October 1, 2025. Awards will be presented at our Fall Third District Luncheon.

### Send your application to:

Terry Buel, Award Chair 148 Co Rt 403 Greenville, NY 12083

Any questions, we will try to answer:

Jean H. Horn: jhorn38@aol.com

Terry Buel: mountainviewb@verizon.net

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). The February Digest only features the Spring District Meeting.

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 district3fgcnys.org/about-us. Scroll down to download the current issue.



# Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. Third District Fall Meeting and Luncheon • October 16, 2025

Pegasus Restaurant, 10885 State Route 9W, Coxsackie, NY

# Registration Form

- ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE PREPAID AND RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 26.
- Mail form and check to Third District Registrar: Lorna Silinovich, PO Box 726, Saugerties, NY 12477
- Enclose one check covering the group amount, payable to: Third District, FGCNYS, Inc. Cost for luncheon is \$30.
- Questions regarding registration? Contact Lorna Silinovich at 518-947-6286 or email: ralphswoman72@yahoo.com
- Diet restrictions can be accommodated by submitting a written request with this form.
- Note: ALL SEATING WILL BE ASSIGNED

Club Name:	Date:			
Name/Contact Person: Tel:				
Number Attending:	X \$30/pp =	Check Amount		
Members Names (Please Print):				

	Club Name:		
	Continued from front:		
Members Names (Please Print):			