

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



NOVEMBER 2025

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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



As the 2025 Garden Club year comes to an end, I would like to express my appreciation to our Executive Board, County and Committee Chairmen, Club Presidents, and our members for their support and commitment to our District and your respective clubs. Thank you for a job well done. You are the best!

Our recent District Fall meeting in Cossackie was a huge success with very positive comments from several attendees. A total of 81 members gathered for

an informative meeting, presentation of awards, and a relaxing buffet lunch. Following lunch, Assistant Director Linda Levitt formally introduced New York State President Elizabeth Walker. Beth spoke on the theme for her presidency, "Planting New York, Pollinators, Wildlife and the Seeds of Growth." Members were encouraged to plant indigenous plants which are most beneficial to promote effective pollination and food for wildlife. She stressed the importance of clubs to focus on nurturing young people to become involved in horticulture, conservation, and environmental stewardship.

Membership in our District has increased during the past year with a total of 463 members representing 14 clubs in the 8 counties that comprise District 3. Our financial position continues to remain strong, thanks in part to growing membership, prudent financial planning, investments, and control. Our communication with the membership is excellent. E-mails to the District are immediately responded to with timely follow-up as needed. This coupled with our signature publication, "The Digest," which I consider to be the finest newsletter in FGCNYS thanks to our editor Karin Janson, all point to a well-run organization that we can take pride in. Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our members who work every day to make District 3 the best in New York State.

As Thanksgiving approaches, and the year comes to an end, let us pause and reflect on the many blessings we have received; for the gift of family and friends; for the beauty that our garden clubs create; and for the privilege of living in this great country. Best wishes for a peaceful and joyful holiday season.

Gary Barrack, Director





FALL DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Harvest Time Gardens & Gatherings

On October 16, 81 members attended the Third District Fall Meeting at Pegasus Restaurant in Cossack. Participants took advantage of the opportunity to try to win one of the many raffle baskets provided by individual members and clubs with help with ticket sales by Germantown and Tioronda Garden Clubs. The 50/50 Raffle ticket sales were provided by Athens Community and Clematis Garden Clubs and the Ways and Means table was provided by the Schoharie Garden Club. The New Paltz Garden Club made the beautiful table arrangements. Many awards were presented including Citations from the Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc. The guest speaker was Beth Walker, President of FGCNYS who spoke about her theme as President "Plant NYS: Pollinators, Wildlife, and the Seeds of Growth."



Awards



FGCNYS, INC AWARDS

2024 Standard Flower Show Award:

3rd Place: (Med. Club) NGC SFS: Germantown Garden Club "The Four Seasons"

2024 Flower Show Schedule Award:

2nd Place 95%: Standard Flower Show
Germantown Garden Club "The Four Seasons"

2025 Club Recognition Awards (1/1/24–12/31/24):

Blue Creek Garden Club
Clematis Garden Club
Germantown Garden Club
Guilderland Garden Club
Schoharie Valley Garden Club
Tioronda Garden Club

2024 Yearbook Awards:

Class Two (20–29 members)
Third: Schoharie Valley Garden Club
Class Three (30–44 members)
Third: Germantown Garden Club
Class Four (45–69 members)
Third: Shawangunk Garden Club
Class Five (70–99 members)
Third: Tioronda Garden Club

2025 Club Anniversary Citations:

Community Garden Club of Marlborough	100 Years
New Paltz Garden Club	75 Years
Greenbush Garden Club	65 Years
Helderview Garden Club	50 Years

2024–2025 World Gardening Club Citations

(Contributions of \$25 or more):

Athens Community Garden Club
Clematis Garden Club
Community GC of Marlborough
Greenbush Garden Club
Guilderland Garden Club
Saugerties Society of Little Gardens
Shawangunk Garden Club*

*Club also received a citation for largest dollar contribution.

Blue Star Memorial Landscape:

1st Place: Clematis Garden Club

Edith Dalziel Landscape Design Citation:

1st Place: Clematis Garden Club

CAR-SGC AWARDS

2024 Press Book/Publicity Award:

3rd Place: Germantown Garden Club

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB AWARDS

2024 Standard Flower Show Achievement Award:

Germantown Garden Club "A Thing Called Love"

2025 Standard Flower Show Achievement Award:

Germantown Garden Club "The Four Seasons"

Special thanks to all the clubs who shared their wonderful projects by applying for awards.

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Irene Clum, President

And suddenly here we are at the beginning of the holiday season! It always comes so fast, doesn't it?

This year the club moved the annual flower show to August as opposed to September and worked well for us. We had over 100 horticulture exhibits, in addition to 24 wonderful designs. The judges enjoyed and appreciated the great breakfast and luncheon, and complimented us on the use of backboards for design. Congratulations to Linda Levitt and Maureen Lockwood, and all who helped set up, tear down, and entered this year's show. Congratulations also to all the winners!

The September field trip to Clermont State Historic Site was fun and educational. Can't believe we never went there before!

At the Fall District 3 Meeting on October 16, our club received 9 awards. We got 6 from FGCNYS, 1 from CAR, and 2 from National Garden Clubs. Job well done everyone! A big shout out to Karin Janson for all her hard work on our yearbook and flower show schedule!

Our November meeting took place in the Hover Room of the Library. Members Elke Crane and Linda Levitt conducted a holiday craft workshop. We also voted on the slate of officers for 2026.

December brings our annual Holiday Marketplace, which is moving to the Activity Building this year. The dates are Friday, December 5 from 4 – 8 pm and Saturday, December 6 from 10 am– 3 pm.

We will have hand-decorated wreaths, bake sale items, raffle baskets, houseplants sale, and tag sale items. Linda Levitt is chairing this event.

On Tuesday, December 9, Elke Crane, Maureen Lockwood, and Joyce Vale will judge the adorn-a-door competition at Palatine Manor. This is followed by our final meeting of the year and covered dish luncheon. We will hold it at noon in the Activity Building. Member will bring a dish to share and a gift for the residents of Livingston Hills Nursing Home.



Top: Members visit Clermont State Historic Site.

Center left: The top design award by Karen Warchol received the Award of Design Excellence and a Tri-Color Award for her design in the Underwater Class titled 'Be Pacific.' Center Right: Linda Levitt won the top horticulture award for her Jade plant in the Cacti and Succulent Class, which also won the Growers' Choice Award.

Below: Members Irene Clum, Linda Levitt, Melanie Nelson, and Fran Bufi show the 9 Awards the club received at the Fall District Meeting.

**THE GERMANTOWN
GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS:**

Annual Holiday Marketplace

Friday, December 5, 2025: 4–8 pm

Saturday, December 6, 2025: 10 am–3 pm

Kellner Activity Center, Palatine Park Road, Germantown

**Start Your Christmas Shopping Early
at our Holiday Marketplace!**

Featuring:

- Hand-decorated Wreaths and Table Arrangements
 - Bake Sale
- Themed Raffle Baskets
 - Boutique Items
- Member Donated Houseplants

**On Friday, December 5 we will be offering a
10% discount and free holiday refreshments.**

**For more information, please contact Linda Levitt at
llevitt113@gmail.com or 860-729-3486.**





**Guilderland Garden Club,
Guilderland Historical Society
and Helderview Garden Club**

**Invite You to a Town-Wide
2025 OPEN HOUSE AND GREENS SHOW
MYNDERSE-FREDERICK HOUSE**

451 Main St. (Route 146), Guilderland Center, NY

Friday, December 5, 4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday, December 6, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.,

Visit with Santa 1-3 p.m.

Sunday, December 7, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

- Free Music and Refreshments
- House Tours, Historical Society members onsite
- Ornaments, Wreaths & Arrangements For Sale
- Bring a non-perishable donation for our local food pantries
- A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Guilderland Garden Club Scholarship Program and a local charity

**For more information, visit Guilderlandgardenclub.com
or**

Townofguilderland.org/741/The-Guilderland-Historical-Society

GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Linda Miller, Co-President

In June, three members of the Club attended the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS Annual Convention "Bee the Change." Our monthly meeting topic was Dahlias presented by Lee Ryan, Master Gardener.

In July, members ventured to Origins Cafe in Cooperstown for a luncheon and toured their beautiful greenhouse. Members also toured and learned so much about the many plants and trees that Joann Vossler and her husband grow and maintain at their Guilderland private residence gardens.

In August, our guest speaker, Cody Futia from Vermiluv, presented an interesting topic on vermicomposting (worm composting). He explained the process that creates the most nutrient rich soil for plants and gardens. Club members greeted and provided information to many fairgoers at our information table at the 2025 Altamont Fair. Members also exhibited in many categories throughout the Fair and received blue ribbons.

In September, the Club members enjoyed going to the Guilderland Clover Pond Winery. We viewed the vineyards and learned how wine is produced there. Club members gathered for a potluck luncheon arranged by Maureen McNamara. This took place in Guilderland's Tawasentha Park celebrating our 50th year sponsoring our annual holiday open house and greens show that will be held in December. Our Club co-President, Linda Miller, was invited to take part in a ribbon-cutting and grand opening celebration marking the completion of the new Altamont Community Kiosk located in Orsini Park. The kiosk will serve as both a welcoming hub for visitors and the new northern end-to-end point of the Long Path, an over 360-mile hiking trail stretching from Manhattan to Altamont and onward to the Adirondacks. The Club welcomed three new Club members. Our garden chairperson, Sandy Hill, and members worked diligently in our gardens all spring and summer and finally put our lovely gardens to bed for the winter. The Garden is located at the town's historic Mynderse-Frederick House and always open to the public.

In October, six members of the Club attended the District 3 meeting held in Coxsackie. Our Club election of officers for 2026-27 took place at our monthly meeting. Members created autumn floral arrangements using pumpkins and other fall materials presented by our co-President, Susan Cole. Co-President, Linda Miller, assisted the Guilderland Historical Society and Guilderland committee charged with celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution at a Spirit Walk in which students from Guilderland High School dressed in period costume. The students roamed the Guilderland Cemetery portraying and honoring passed Guilderland residents from colonial times.

In November members will be meeting at the historic Mynderse/Frederick House in Guilderland Center to prepare for our annual holiday open house and greens show. The Show will be held December 5-7, 2025 and is co-sponsored by the Helderview Garden Club and the Guilderland Historical Society. All are welcome to attend.



Top: Members touring the winery.

Above Center: Pot luck luncheon celebrating 50th anniversary of Club's annual Greens Show.

Below Center: Linda Miller, Co-President and Paul Tonko, Albany County Congressman manning the information table at the Altamont Fair.

Bottom: Club luncheon at Origins Cafe in Cooperstown.

COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB OF MARLBOROUGH ON HUDSON

ULSTER COUNTY

by Linda Fogerty, Treasurer

In August, our club had a very interesting talk from local bee keeper, Darren Fogarty. Besides offering us a list of pollinators we were reminded to put stones in our water sources as bees cannot swim!

In September we were working hard to keep our gardens blooming in all the heat. However, we were not deterred and planted some Autumnal flowers. Also did some decorating.

Our October program gave us a jump on the holidays with a demonstration from a local florist. Members enjoyed working on some early decorations.

Our calendar year will end with a holiday luncheon and a new slate of officers.



Above left: Stones for water sources help pollinators. Above right: Members Judith Krawiec, Darlene Smieszek, Sandy Gaudioso, and Rosalie Bento make holiday decorations. Bottom: Autumnal flowers and decorations for fall.

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack, Dutchess County Chairman

The Tioronda Garden Club held its annual mum sale on September 13 at the Madam Brett Homestead in Beacon. A total of 210 mums in 9-inch pots were sold, making the fund raiser a huge success. The mums were grown exclusively for the club by Sunny Gardens Greenhouse in Wappingers Falls. On September 28, the club participated in the Spirit of Beacon Day parade and street fair with a booth featuring information about membership, and a raffle for an Autumn themed bushel basket full of mums, decorative peppers, winter cabbage, and other fall plantings. We welcomed two new members who joined the club during the event. Our October meeting featured local Master Gardener Philomena Kiernan who presented "Gardening for Pollinators – Birds, Bees and Butterflies."

A busy holiday season to close out the Garden Club year includes decorating the Howland Cultural Center, the Madam Brett Homestead, and the club's "Wreaths Along Main Street" project. The December meeting will feature our annual Holiday Decorating Workshop and Christmas party. The club does not meet during the months of January and February, resuming in March for the Installation of Officers for 2026-2027.



Above left: The restored gardens at Bannerman's Island where club members attended the annual volunteer fund raiser event. Above right: Members working the club's booth at the Spirit of Beacon day parade and street fair. Bottom left: Gary Barrack and Patrick Lambert install a bronze marker for the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Madam Brett Homestead in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Bottom right: Volunteers relax after the successful annual Autumn Mum sale.

SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Sophia Browne

In August we participated in the yearly Blueberry Festival in Ellenville. We always have two tents at the main entrance and welcome all visitors. In our tents, we had a selection of plants, flowers, photos, handmade garden items, as well as raffle prizes for sale. Our members were available to answer all questions.

Our September meeting focused on forest offerings which are utilized in foods, medications, and pleasures. Our guest speaker, Dina Falconi, brought her current cookbook much to the delight of our members who waited patiently in line to purchase a copy. Our traditional scarecrow workshop took place at Lippman Park. Upon completion, all the scarecrows were put on display at numerous locations in Ellenville.

This past October we held a Fall Bounty Soup Contest at our library after our Food Storage (plastic) usage disposal report. Twelve contestants brought their crock pots full of their special recipes. All were tasted by our guest Judge Parker. There were 3 prizes for 3 lucky club members. First prize (\$25.) went to Kathy De Puy. Everyone enjoyed the various soups presented as well as the hosting committee's table

goodies.

October was a busy month. Our fall visit to our favorite arboretum. Our Fall District Luncheon in Cossackie. Our unfortunate detours via phone directions delayed our arrivals to the meeting. However, we were very happy to receive certificates for 1st place yearbook and the highest contribution (\$) to the world gardening water project. Bravo! November's annual meeting will deal with a variety of reports, committee activities, club officer nominations. Towards the end of the month, we decorate the Terwilliger House Museum at the Ellenville Public Library. We also create centerpieces for the Noonday club senior citizen holiday dinner.

Our December holiday meeting for the year will take place at HAZE GAL'S house in Cragmoor which is always a TREAT. We have been asked to wear an UGLY CHRISTMAS (recycled) SWEATER which guarantees a door prize! Hard to resist. Nice way to celebrate a fun, entertaining and informative year.

Can't wait to see what next year has to offer!!!



Top left: Members at the August Blueberry Festival in Ellenville. Bottom left: Brenda Decker and guest speaker Dina Falconi. Top: Sue Harris enjoying clean up and the weather. Top right: Guest Judge Parker and First Prize soup contest winner Kathy De Puy. Bottom right: Michele Blauvelt, Sue Harris, Dawn Boswell, Robin Anderson, Sylvia Russo, Jan Carlsen, Lillian Green, and Julie Chin at the District Luncheon.



SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Anne Bielawski

Here's a brief summary of what's going on in Schoharie Valley Garden Club for the Digest.

September: a workshop was held "Garden Therapy for Schoharie County Home Delivered Meals," theme: Christmas Cheer. We created mini wreaths for meal recipients. 200 were made. We also held our annual Garage Sale, Plant and Bake Sale fund raiser on September 6, as part of Schoharie town-wide garage sale day.

October: a workshop, Christmas "Light of the Season" Luncheon favors. Decorate 6" tapers with ribbons, tiny pine cones, berries, etc.

November: a workshop, recycle/refurbish Festival of Trees ornaments; create some additional ones with simple pine cones and ribbons.

December 2: Christmas Luncheon Centerpieces; "Light of the Season" candle/wineglass centerpieces; deliver to venue and venue set-up.

December 3: Fund raising: Holiday Luncheon & Boutique: "The Light of the Season," noon - 4 pm. Parrot House, Schoharie

Mid December 2025: Festival of Trees decorating at NYS Power Authority in Blenheim, NY



Above: September workshop for our Christmas wreaths for recipients of home delivered meals. Below: At our October workshop, members made holiday luncheon favors.

SAUGERTIES SOCIETY OF LITTLE GARDENS

ULSTER COUNTY

by Dale Winchester, President

The club resumed meeting, after our summer break, with a membership meeting on September 17. A slate of officers was discussed for the 2026–2028 terms. The following day the club took a field trip to visit the Hudson Valley Seed Company in Accord, NY. We were provided a tour of their trial gardens by their knowledgeable staff. It was a warm beautiful early fall day to spend together.

As an ongoing activity on October 3, in preparation for the Saugerties annual Mum Festival, the club created corsages for the Saugerties High School Homecoming Court and 300 boutonnieres. Club members participated in the Festival on gorgeous Sunday, October 5. Members provided information regarding our club and sold raffle tickets for our fund raiser. On October 9, the club held their fall luncheon at the Rip Van Winkle Golf Club in Palenville, NY. Fourteen members were present. The following Thursday, October 16, club members attended the Fall Third District Meeting.

On November 5, club members began decorating the corner pole boxes with greens for the holidays, throughout the village of Saugerties.

We end our year in December with our Christmas Luncheon on December 10 at the Green Room in Saugerties.



Above left and right: Our tour of the Hudson Valley Seed Company's trial gardens.



"The Light of the Season!"



Schoharie Valley Garden Club Annual Holiday Luncheon & Boutique! Wednesday, December 3th, 2025



"The Parrot House"

(294 Main Street Schoharie, New York)

- 10:45 – 12 Noon: Registration & Shopping
12 Noon: Luncheon (Chicken Caprese, Salad, Potatoes/Seasonal Vegetables, Dessert)
(Please inform us of special dietary needs upon registration)
1:00: Floral Demonstration by Michele Peters of www.ambianceflorals.net



Start Your Christmas Shopping Early at our Holiday Boutique!

Shops Open
10:45
(Bring Shopping Bag)

In addition to our traditional "Benefit Raffle" and "White Elephant" tables, please support our vendors who will be selling jewelry, soaps, personal care items, and a variety of unique gifts.



Reservation & Payment **DUE by Monday, November 24, 2025**

\$45 payable to: Schoharie Valley Garden Club

Complete this form & mail with payment to: Anne Bielawski, 103 Strawberry Lane, Schoharie, NY 12157 (Phone: 518-295-8809)

All seating reserved. If coming in a group of 2 or more & plan to sit together you must register together:

Group Leader _____ Phone: _____ How many? _____ Amount Enclosed _____
All Names in Group _____

If coming as an individual:

Name _____ Phone: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Margaret McDowell, President

Welcome to Fall! The New Paltz Garden Club has been busy. In September, we visited the Mohonk Mountain House for our Annual Tour. The theme was “A Cottage Garden” and the Gardens were beautifully displayed and planted. Our Gardener guide helped us identify many of the flowering plants and discussed how Mohonk chooses its theme and where certain plants will be placed. The Greenhouse is undergoing a small expansion and is always a popular area for the Mountain House guests to visit.

In October, we visited the Testimonial Gateway area of the Mohonk Preserve. One of our members, Tammy, gave us a great tour of the area surrounding the parking lot near the Preserve’s kiosk. We learned about invasive plants (both native and non-native), the work the volunteers do in controlling the invasive plants, and the ways to identify various trees and shrubs. In the Fall, we had a very different view of the plants as they have finished flowering and readying for Winter. We could more clearly see the seed pods and other identifiers.

On October 16, two of our members attended the District 3 luncheon and had participated in making the centerpieces the previous day. We had made pumpkin centerpieces with the assistance of five of our members. We were treated to a short but inspiring talk by Beth Walker, the FGCNYS President.

In November, we are planning our Holiday Craft event. We will be making a Holiday Hanging Basket filled with greens and other seasonal decorations. Additionally, we will be planning for next year’s event. We also plan to fill holiday themed cups for our local nursing home residents.

In December, we will have our Holiday Party and potluck and enjoy a social time together with a gift exchange. Additionally ,throughout the Summer, we have maintained our beautiful two Community Gardens and as always receive high praise from the local residents.

Wishing you all a safe, happy and healthy end of Year!



Top: Club members visit the Mohonk Mountain House for a tour of the gardens.

Center: Members visit the Testimonial Gateway area of the Mohonk Preserve.

Above: The table arrangements for the District Fall Meeting were made by members of the club.

Clubs' Calendar 2025-26

December 3, 2025

*Schoharie Valley Garden Club's
Annual Luncheon and Boutique
The Light of the Season
The Parrot House
294 Main St., Schoharie, NY*

December 5-6, 2025

*Germantown Garden Club Christmas Market
Kellner Activity Center
Palatine Park Rd, Germantown, NY*

December 5-7, 2025

*Guilderland Garden Club Open House and Greens Show
Mynderse-Fredrick House
451 Main St, Guilderland, NY*

April 16, 2026

*Third District Spring Meeting
Details to follow.*

PARTING SHOT



Beautiful fall pumpkins on display. Photo by Sophia Browne, Shawangunk Garden Club.

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.

