

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



MAY 2024

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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 on Hudson, New Paltz, Saugerties Society of Little Gardens, Shawangunk

From the Director



It was gratifying to see so many of you in attendance our Annual Spring District meeting in April as we began our 2024 Garden Club year. Gathering once again as a District and seeing old friends and familiar faces brought a sense of renewal and hope that garden clubs are once again, ready to do what we do best. Spring is the season of new life. And just as our gardens have once again come to life after a long winter, so too should we bring new life into our local garden clubs. I encourage clubs to get involved in new and innovative programs, activities, community outreach, and civic beautification projects.

Retaining and attracting new members are the lifeblood of our clubs. Assist your club president in establishing a goal to increase membership. Bring a friend to a meeting as a means of recruitment. Involve new members in the day-to-day activities of the club. Most importantly, publicize all the good works that you do to serve and beautify your communities. Take pictures of your club's activities, issue press releases, and assign a publicity chair position to update your social media platforms and websites. Nothing attracts new members like good publicity. A renewed interest in gardening has taken place in recent years and we need to use this as an opportunity to revitalize and rebuild membership in our garden clubs. On behalf of the Executive Board, thank you for your unfailing commitment and dedication in making our District one of the best in New York State. Keep up the good work that you do each day!

I just returned from our State Convention and 100th Centennial Gala of FGCNYS. The convention was a huge success, thanks in part to our members who attended the convention and contributed their time and talents to create the beautiful centerpieces for the tables and assisted with the raffles and 50/50 sales. As host District, we received accolades from the attendees, many commenting that this was one of best conventions ever and are looking forward to returning to Albany next year.

Please mark your calendars:

June 2-8, 2024: National Garden Week. This week is an excellent opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of this effort

October 17, 2024: Third District Fall Meeting at the Best Western Hotel in Kingston, Details to follow in the August issue of The Digest.

With gratitude for all you do,

Gary Barrack, District III Director



Highlights from the Spring District Meeting

by Karin Janson, Editor, *The Digest*

Thank you to all who attended our Spring District Meeting on April 18 "Spring Splendor." A special thank you to the Dutchess and Columbia County Clubs for coordinating the 50/50 raffle. We also featured awesome raffle baskets that were provided by the Executive Board and all the clubs in our district. All included beautiful gifts bags filled with goodies. Our presenter, Denise Maurer is a Master Gardener with Cornell Cooperative Extension and presented how gardening can be therapeutic and bring you lots of pleasure. We learned how to transform your deck, porch, or grounds into garden rooms by combining plants and flowers with furnishings and accessories using basic design principles and live the good life outdoors!

All together, 82 members attended. We paid a special tribute to Fran Bufi of the Germantown Garden Club, who has been president for over 21 years.

For those of you who missed our spring meeting, please consider attending our Fall District Meeting on October 17, 2024 at the Kingston Best Western Plus.



Highlights From the 100th Anniversary Annual Convention

Thank you just isn't enough to express my appreciation to all of you. Our 100th anniversary Annual Convention and Gala was a wonderful experience. Those who attended, will attest to the good time we had. Our speakers were knowledgeable and enlightening. The hotel space was attractive and convenient. The Gala... it was grand. Honoring Jeanne and our former presidents was very special. The presentation of the quilt was so touching. The music at the Gala was truly a gift, thank you Gary. The Centennial Convention Committee deserves the biggest applause!

Thank you,
Donna Sessa, President FGCNYS



Membership Matters!

by Cynthia Teator, Membership Chair

How do our clubs work together to retain our vital members? My understanding is that by creating great garden programs, field trips, and events, will bring excitement, joy, and fun memories to share with relatives, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances!

Include your members in planning get-togethers for idea sharing. Ask them how they feel about helping with a local project. Maybe help with a town or historical house garden by volunteering to maintain the garden or add your ideas to the garden. Then afterwards invite your members to socialize for coffee, tea, or hot cocoa! "Share your blooms together," a suggestion that was shared with me lately. Share your accomplishments. Get together on a regular basis in your gardens to give answers to gardening questions and plan outings to interesting destinations to visit!

Today is the time to invite and deliver your invitation to new and old acquaintances. By sharing your thoughts and reaching out with ideas to

members and guests, your members will enthusiastically join in. Your club can delightfully grow!

Even though our District Three has recently been experiencing a reduction in numbers of our clubs, we have been growing relationships. Recently, we have had about a dozen new member applications to our National Garden Club website—www.gardenclub.org. On our Federated Garden Clubs of New York State's website, www.fgcny.com, new membership applications are available for our clubs to utilize. Visit Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs' website at www.car-sgc.org Many of our clubs also have a Facebook page to promote membership too!

You can reach out for assistance to Cynthia Teator, Membership Chair at 518-694-1930 or email cteator3@gmail.com

FUN PUZZLE FOR SPRING

by Cynthia Teator, Second Assistant Director

Gardening

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.

The remaining 27 letters spell a Lady Bird Johnson quote.

F S W H E E L B A R R O W W H G E G R
U P E G S P E T U N I A S S N F N R T
C A G O R T L S O I L O C I N O W A U
H D H R R E L R O W S A T O M A E K L
S E R O O A E S S E B N I E M A E E I
I S W C U W F N S D A T R N E P L B P
A E C N U O E O H L L U O G N O O S S
L L N A I L R G P O T O N M V E U S F
P A B R L N T M N L U A G E A N I L T
I I E E O I I I U I R S G I S T O B S
N N E T C A L C V D G E E H R W O S E
W N T A C R I I Y A T G I E E A E E I
H E S W O T Z H E A T N I R D O M V S
E R G A R D E N B S E E S D H S S O I
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L P H S S D E E W G N I X A L E R G D
L E V O H S A E P S M U I N A R E G H
O P P I T C H F O R K E C A R R O T S

ANNUALS	GARDEN	ORGANIC	SEEDS
BEANS	GERANIUMS	PEAS	SHOVEL
BEETS	GLOVES	PERENNIAL	SOIL
BIENNIAL	GNOME	PETUNIAS	SPADE
BROCCOLI	GREENHOUSE	PINWHEEL	SUNSHINE
CARROTS	GROW	PITCH FORK	TOMATOES
COMPOST	HOES	PLANTING	TROWEL
CULTIVATE	HORTICULTURE	RAIN	TULIPS
DAISIES	HOSE	RAKE	VEGETABLES
DIGGING	HYDRANGEA	RELAXING	WATER
FERTILIZER	LILACS	ROSES	WEEDS
FLOWERS	LILIES	ROWS	WHEELBARROW
FUCHSIA	MARIGOLDS		

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Fran Buji

At the last meeting of 2023, new and returning officers were inducted. For 2024, new President Irene Clum and new Recording Secretary Pat Byron were installed. Returning officers Maureen Lockwood, Vice-President, and Joyce Vale, Treasurer were also installed. Officiating the ceremonies was the Director of the Third District, Gary Barrack.

At the club's March meeting, we held a program titled "Native Plants for Non-Traditional Spaces." The meeting featured speaker Shanti Nagel, founder of Design Wild. Shanti is a graduate of the School of Professional Horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, a trained horticulturist, and skilled landscape designer. As part of her presentation she gave an introduction to a variety of native plants that are easy, hardy and great additions to any landscape. She explained what is a 'native' plant and why 'natives' are so important for a healthy ecosystem. Shanti's program included a slide show featuring examples of how to

include a variety of native plants in a variety of types of gardens including some of her designs for public spaces, community parks, affordable housing and private residences. Her talk also covered container gardens for decks and patios, mixed border plantings, and sourcing options. Her presentation concluded with a lively question and answer session.

In April, the club expanded its gardening knowledge by holding a program on gardening in a small green space that is created in a transparent container. Member Linda Levitt gave a demonstration on how to properly plant a terrarium including tools, suitable plant material, containers and design.

And at the FGCNYS's 100th Anniversary and Gala held in May, the club received a commendation citation for 95 years of annual NGC flower shows.



Top: Installation of officers. L to R: Joyce Vale, Maureen Lockwood, Gary Barrack, Pat Byron, and Irene Clum.

Bottom: Club President Irene Clum receives award at the FGCNYS's Annual Meeting from State President Donna Sessa.

Top: At the March meeting, we had a presentation from Shanti Nagel on native plants for non-traditional spaces.

Bottom: Master Gardener and Club Member Linda Levitt gives a demonstration on planting terrariums.

BLUE CREEK GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Kathleen Donohue

The Blue Creek Garden Club presented a Flower Arrangement Workshop for one of our local Girl Scout Troops. The workshop took place at the historic Pruyn House in Latham, New York. Each scout made a lovely mother's day flower arrangement to take home to their moms.

Fun snacks were served as the girls admired their works across the mantel. Club members made interesting upcycled centerpieces and discussed how recycled materials can be transformed into an economical display.



GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by Linda Miller

The Guilderland Garden Club, in conjunction with the Helderview Garden Club, held its Annual Holiday Greens and Craft Show on December 1 and 2 at the Historic Mynderse-Frederick House in Guilderland Center. The home was beautifully decorated and was able to attract many members of the community. A portion of the funds raised goes toward our scholarship fund and to local food pantries.

The club is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year with many great programs and field trips planned.

Our first meeting in April was at the Pine Bush Discovery Center. The topic was the Karner Blue Butterfly that is indigenous to our area. The Karner Blue will eat only the Blue Lupin plant that is also grown specifically for them.

In April, the Guilderland Chamber of Commerce sponsored a "Ladies Night Out." Club members enjoyed a wonderful evening and also was provided with an information/fundraising table by the Chamber.

Our annual Scholarship Fundraiser is underway for 2025. Applications for the 2024 award are being sent in from senior high school students from local high schools.

Members of our club provided the table arrangements for the FGCNYS Conference in Albany.

Our meeting in May is with guest speaker Martie Teumim, Albany County Master Gardener. Her topic will be Bringing Native Plants into Your Garden. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

Club members are having a "Garden Therapy Day" that is scheduled for June to help plant vegetables and herbs in raised beds, help weed the gardens, and just enjoy the day with the residents of Our Lady of Mercy Life Center Nursing Home.

In June, the Club will be presenting a donation check for \$200 to help the Guilderland High School Garden Club. Also, donation checks for \$100 each will be sent to the Altamont and Guilderland food pantries.



The club's table at the Guilderland Chamber's Ladies Night Out.

NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Margaret McDowell

We started this year with our welcome back Pot Luck Supper and a great time was had by all. Our presenter was from the Arbor Vitae School of Herbalism. She had many excellent types of herbs and their actions to share with us.

Our April meeting was well attended and we were happy to induct four new members. Our speaker was a recent member who presented a fascinating power point on “Wicked Plants.” We learned of many exotic plants with deadly thorns and vines and many plants that can make our pets ill. The most deadly plant that is among us is tobacco. A lively discussion followed. Plans were made for the upcoming plant sale (5/18). All members will participate. We also participated locally in the Earth Day celebration on 4/20 with planting materials and a free seed giveaway.

This May we will return to the local Senior Residence and share plants and refreshments. Additionally the residents will share their flowering plants displayed in a beautiful container garden. Our speaker will be member, Barbara Campbell discussing “Landscaping within Nature.” Our Plant Sale preparation is well underway and we anticipate a good turn out and a successful fund raiser.

This June we will be guests at a community member’s garden and enjoy a “Tea Party” with desserts and a fun flower vase competition where we bring flowers from our Spring Gardens. A winner is picked and the vase and flowers are auctioned off. We may also have some new members to induct.



From centerpieces to pot luck suppers, New Paltz Garden Club members participate in many programs throughout the year.

COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB OF MARLBOROUGH-ON-HUDSON

ULSTER COUNTY

by Linda Fogarty

On April 3, the Community Garden Club of Marlborough-on-Hudson had their Installation Luncheon at The Desmond. Gary Barrack, District III Director, presided over the ceremony. A buffet luncheon was enjoyed by all.

In May, we were treated to a talk by master gardener, Barbara Wexler-Hall, on how to create arrangements of succulents in containers.

In June, we will be hosting a membership tea, with gift baskets, centerpieces, and restaurant gift cards being raffled.



Left to right: Jean DiNapoli, Recording Secretary; Linda Fogarty, Treasurer; Gary Barrack; Ingrid Mazzola and Carol DeMicco, Co-Presidents; Beverly Sharpe, 2nd VP.

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Geraldine Fuller, Club President

This year marks the 95th Anniversary of the Tioronda Garden Club. Established in 1929, the club joined the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State in 1931.

The club started the year with its Installation of Officers meeting in March. District Director and club President Gary Barrack administered the oath of office to the new board members.

Highlights for the upcoming Garden Club year include the Annual Secret Gardens of Beacon tour in June; a field trip to Glynwood Farms in Cold Spring, NY; the club's annual mum sale in September, and the Autumn Wine Cocktail Party fundraiser in October which has become the social event of the year.

Interspersed with these events are our many civic beautification and historical preservation projects along with guest speakers at our monthly meetings.

Top: New Officers of the Tioronda Garden, for the 2024-2025 Garden Club Years, sworn in by District Director Gary Barrack.

Bottom: Incoming President Gary Barrack presents the FGCNYS Past Presidents Pin to Geraldine Fuller, thanking her for a job well done.



SCHWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by *Sophia Browne*

Our March meeting and yearbook distribution began our Club year. Our focus this year is “Back to the roots in Gardening.” We have 60 club members including 5 gentlemen this year.

Our April 8 meeting took place during the Eclipse. We were able to enjoy our scheduled program and also experience glimpses of the eclipse. We were very busy this month. Our members attended the Spring District Meeting in Cossackie.

We toured/enjoyed the Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Montgomery (no rain this year). Wednesdays are our village cleanup day. Our club worked on the entrance, first and last holes of the local golf course for the upcoming Golf Tournament. Also, the village permanent planters. On Arbor Day, we planted a tree for our dear member, Millie Giammichele at Lippman Park and a tree for Josh Berger at the Hunt Building.

In May, we work on our 25 village planters to be ready by Memorial Day. Our Mother’s Day Plant Sale will be on Saturday, May 11.

On May 16, an outing to Innisfree Garden/Millbrook, NY is scheduled.

We participate in “ADOPT A HIGHWAY,” local food pantries, scholarship awards, we water the outside hospital gardens and store plants, and contribute to the Dig Deep Navajo Indian Water Project. We trim and take care of our village planters.

June’s meeting takes place at Lippman Park with our plant exchange and soil testing. Pizza is on the menu. Our annual luncheon, June 20, will be at Pasta D’Oro in Wurtsboro, NY.

Our July meeting will be held at Renee’s house where we will enjoy a garden picnic. Our topic will be “Earth friendly sustainable gardening.” The club’s trip to Hortos Arboretum + Botanical Gardens, Stone Ridge will be July 11.

The Club will Participate in the Ellenville Blueberry Festival on August 10. We are the first two tents as you enter. We sell plants, fresh flowers, quilted, and hand made items. We also answer questions.

On August 15, we will visit Story’s Neversink Plant Company, Neversink, NY.

We have multiple events scheduled for the Fall months. They include an Orchid program, a 25 scarecrow workshop, a chili contest, creating approximately 35 ERH Gala centerpieces, trip to the Arboretum, Fall District Luncheon/Kingston, Annual reports, Holiday decorating local museum, Noonday Club centerpiece workshop, Christmas Meeting.

Yes, we are and will be busy!!!



Top: District Luncheon with Heddy Qualtere, Sophia Browne, Sue Harris, Lillian Green

Center: Josh Berger memorial tree, Arbor Day. Hunt Building

Bottom: Sue Harris, Haze Gal, Lillian Green, Pat Kisowski, Market Street, Ellenville

SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Sue Gripinski, President

December 2023: A Berry Merry Christmas. Our luncheon is our main fundraiser for the year. We look forward to everyone that comes, they have so much fun, enjoying the festivities, wonderful food and vendors! We have so much fun creating our Centerpieces, favors, raffle, and ways and means tables. There is so much imagination and talent in our group! We love to see our guests with a smile on there face!

March 6, 2024 was our first monthly meeting of the year. We start off with a covered Dish Luncheon, catching up with our friends. And then move onto voting on leadership, committees, about getting our yearbook ready with programs for the year 2024–2025, whether it's touring different gardens, nurseries, inviting educational speakers to our group. Including having a workshop, learning new techniques and ways to create our gardens and flower arrangements, Flower Shows, and promoting our garden club at different festivals in Schoharie County.

April 3: Workshop—Spring Teapot Centerpieces. Instruction was given by our very own Betty Karlau, Vice President. It brought sunshine on a dreary day! April also brought us to Antiques in Schoharie with members donating plants, cut flowers in all shapes and sizes, in vintage containers, fans, and vintage jewelry.

May starts off with our garden of the month, we have 5 groups of ladies that take turns until September. We also do Community Gardening: spring plantings at public facilities in Schoharie County

May 1: Our outing to the Garden Bug in Fort Hunter, Amsterdam. We visited the green house, which was bursting with colors of the rainbow, everything you could want in your gardens! We had fun shopping in the gift shop, too. Tasty refreshments were provided before our meeting. Afterwards we headed out to Rain Dancer Restaurant for lunch.

June 7–10: Flower show at Arts in Bloom Festival. Our members make arrangements for all the rooms in the library along with the quilts of the Schoharie Valley Piecemakers Quilt Guild. Artists' booths are located on the lawn..fun for all, food trucks available, too! Schoharie Library, corner Bridge St & Knower Ave, Schoharie

July 13: Lilly Park Festival, Schoharie. We will be selling plant books and garden related items.

Sept 7: Garage sale, Plant and Bake Sale, located on 139 Bridge St, Schoharie



Top and Middle: A Berry Merry Christmas! Our main fundraiser for the year.

Bottom: Outing to the Garden Bug.

Left: Antiques in Schoharie display from members.

Clubs' Calendar 2024

June 2-5

NGC Convention
The Westin Westminster
10600 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, CO

September 7

Schoharie Valley Garden Club's
Garage, Plant, and Bake Sale
139 Bridge Street
Schoharie, NY

September 7-8

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

October 17

District III Fall Meeting
Best Western Plus
503 Washington Avenue, Kingston, NY

October 22-23

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs' Fall Conference
Olde Mill Inn
225 US-202, Basking Ridge, NJ

December 7-8

Germantown Garden Club Christmas Market
The First Reformed Church Parsonage
52 Maple Avenue, Germantown, NY

Centerpieces for Convention

Members from the Guilderland Garden Club and the Blue Creek Garden Club created the beautiful centerpieces for the FGCNYS Annual Convention. These centerpieces graced the tables at the convention meals and at the Gala celebrating the 100th Anniversary of FGCNYS. The design session was coordinated by Linda Miller, President of the Guilderland GC; Zoe Griffin, Co-president of the Blue Creek GC; and Craig Waltz of the Guilderland GC.



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).

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. Please note that the February issue does not include Club News.

Material for *The Digest* should be sent to Karin Janson via email at kjanson@aol.com.

To access *The Digest*, go to the State website—fgcnys.com—select District III on the home page and then select Digest Online.

