

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



MAY 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Highlights of the Spring Meeting	2
Meet Our New Officers	3
FGCNYS June Convention	3
In Our Clubs	4
Club's Calendar	10
Clematis Spring Social	10

From the Director



It was gratifying to see so many of you at our Spring District meeting in April as we began our 2025 Garden Club year. Attendance was the highest in many years. 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 easily achievable goals. Take pictures of your club's activities, issue press releases, and assign a publicity chair position to update your social media platforms. You will find that a little effort will pay large dividends.

Special thanks to our new Executive Board members who were formally installed at our April meeting. We are very fortunate to have such qualified and dedicated members who will serve us for the next two years. Please take time to thank them and our County and Committee Chairmen for volunteering to serve in their respective capacities. Together, we will make the Third District the best in New York State.

Elizabeth (Beth) Walker, our past District Director will be installed as New York State President on Tuesday, June 3, at the Annual State Convention in Albany, which runs from June 1-4, 2025. The highlights of the meeting will be the Club Presidents Forum Breakfast on June 3, and the installation of Officers later that afternoon, followed by a reception in honor of our new President Beth Walker. The reception will be hosted by the Saugerties Society of Little Gardens and the Third District. Please make every effort to attend and congratulate Beth as she assumes her new duties as New York State President. Convention registration information can be found on Page 3 of the Digest.

Please mark your calendars:

June 1–7, 2025: 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 16, 2025: Third District Fall Meeting. Details to follow in the August issue of The Digest.

With gratitude for all you do,

Gary Barrack, District III Director

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



Highlights from the Spring District Meeting

by Karin Janson, Editor, The Digest

Thank you to all who attended our Spring District Meeting on April 10 "Color It Spring." A special thank you and Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Maureen McNamara for her coordination of both the Spring and Fall meetings. She has worked hard to make sure we have had great meetings.

The Executive Board and the Garden Explorers Club get a round of applause for coordinating the 50/50 raffle. We also featured awesome raffle baskets that were provided by all the clubs in our district with the Ulster County Clubs handling ticket sales. Lovely table arrangements were provided by the Germantown Garden Club.

Our presenter, Chris Ferrero is a Master Gardener with Cornell Cooperative Extension and presented how we can grow our own cut flowers. Why buy them when you can grow your own!

We had our largest attendance since the pandemic. All together, 95 members attended. At the meeting, FGCNYS President-Elect Elizabeth Walker installed our new slate of officers.



MEET OUR NEW OFFICERS



At the Spring District Meeting, held on April 10, 2025, new board members were installed by Beth Walker, FGCNYS State President-Elect.

Pictured from left to right:

Gary Barrack, Director, Tioronda Garden Club

Linda Levitt, First Assistant Director, Germantown Garden Club

Terry Buel, Recording Secretary, Clematis Garden Club

Carol DiMicco, Corresponding Secretary, Marlborough Garden Club

Marie Celeste, Treasurer, Greenbush Garden Club

Kim Gurney, Assistant Treasurer, Guilderland Garden Club

Congrats to everyone!

A Message From First Assistant Director Linda Levitt



There are things that you love to do and things that you have to do. My love has always been gardening. After a 30-year career in the insurance industry, I became a Master Gardener upon my retirement in 2014.

I was asked to speak at a Germantown meeting in 2022, and the rest is history. The members were so warm and welcoming that I had to stay!

Now, I have the pleasure and responsibility of being the District III 1st Assistant Director. Over the next couple of years, I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me by phone 860-729-3486 or email at llevitt113@gmail.com with your ideas, suggestions, and any questions that you might have.

Thank you.

Linda Levitt

Save the Date!



Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Annual Convention and Election of Officers

June 1–4, 2025

Crowne Plaza Albany—The Desmond Hotel
660 Albany Shaker Rd, Albany, NY 12211

'BEE THE CHANGE'

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Dot Chenevert, President,
Northeast Chapter of AIFD
"June is Bustin Out All Over"

Gina Jogan, Master Flower Show Judge
"Botanical Design; Plaques and Collages"

Ellen Federico, Certified Conservationist
"Monarch Butterfly Conservation and the
Power of Survival"

Joellen Marie Lampman,
Environmental Educator
"Lawns for Bees? Yes, Please"

Leadership Forum
For club presidents, vice presidents, directors,
and other leaders

Dutch Apple Boat Cruise
Take a chartered cruise on the Hudson

GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by John Haluska and Linda Miller

In December 2024 our Club mourned the loss of three wonderful members who are greatly missed: Kathy Perrego, Lois Uhl, and Jean Goldstein.

Our scholarship program, chaired by Ann Trolenberg and her committee, is underway for 2025. In May, the scholarship award will go to one deserving senior high school student who meets our criteria. The award is offered at the following local high schools: Guilderland, Berne/Knox/Westerlo, and Voorheesville.

Our officers and committee chair members have been very busy working to provide our members with great programs and field trips, planning events, hosting a garden therapy program for our local senior citizens, advertising our programs, keeping accurate accounting; fund raising, working on the 2025 Yearbook, transferring our website, filling out award applications, planning for our garden reopening, helping from the sunshine committee and much more!

We have been working closely with a number of town organizations including the Town of Guilderland Office of the Supervisor, collaborating with the Guilderland Historical Society and the Guilderland Library on projects, website, and programs for 2025-26. Food and monetary donations are made monthly to both Guilderland and Altamont pantries and members attend and help with the pantry and their fund raisers. Donations are also made to many programs including our local school gardens, Wreaths Across America, the Caring Closet, Altamont Fair and more.

The Guilderland Chamber of Commerce “Ladies Night Out” annual fund raiser for non-profits was held in April at the Albany Country Club. As a co-member of the chamber, along with the Guilderland Historical Society, members were at our information/recruitment table. The fund raiser affords us the opportunity to network with many organizations and businesses in Guilderland. The fun night was filled with raffles, food/drink, chocolate, a fashion show and music.

Several Club members volunteered their time to plan, purchase, make, bake and prepare a lovely breakfast for the students and teaching staff who participated in the recent FGCNYS Flower Show School located at Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville. We also met wonderful people from around the State.

Members are getting our gardens ready. Located at the Town of Guilderland’s historic Mynderse/Frederick House, the garden will be brought back to life after major renovations on the House during 2024–25 destroyed many of our beautiful bushes and

plants that we maintain. We have been working with Town people and local nurseries to restore these plantings and will be opening up the garden soon to share with the public.

On June 14, the Club along with the Guilderland Historical Society will be hosting a Town wide NYS Path Through History program to be held at the newly renovated historic Mynderse-Frederick House as well as other historic sites in Guilderland. Plans include garden and House tours, refreshments, plant sale and more.

As a sponsor of the Altamont Fair scheduled for August 12–17, members are eager to enter their plants, crafts, pictures, paintings, etc. this year. Last year, many awards (ribbons and monetary) were received for their efforts. Our information/recruitment table will be located in the Flower Barn. Please stop by if you are in Altamont!

The April 14 meeting was held at the Guilderland Town Hall on the topic of “Bird Collision Prevention.” Guest speaker was from the Audubon Society.



Ladies Night Out. Left-Right: Kathy Gaige (Historical Society), Judi Golombiski, Marguerite Hill, Delia Gunning and Donna Mohr (not pictured: Susan Cole).



Left: Linda Miller, Club Co-President at the “Ladies Night Out” recruitment table.

Below: Linda Miller and Maureen McNamara, hosts for the flower show school.



GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Irene Clum, Columbia County Chairman

The Germantown Garden Club started the year in February with 31 active members. That has since grown to 39 members. Our first speaker of the year was Tim Kennelty, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist volunteer through the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene counties. He gave a presentation on “Creating a Native Pollinator Garden.” He spoke about supporting pollinators and other critters by replacing some of your lawn with native perennial gardens. This talk featured how to simply and easily eliminate turf, and naturally create and maintain beautiful new beds, or expand existing planting areas. He covered how to select hardy perennial (in many cases deer-resistant) plants for multiple seasons of bloom.

In April our speaker was Brian Bender-Tymon of Petalos Floral Design in Kingston, a shop that exemplifies floral artistry at its best with stunning arrangements and captivating orchids.



His presentation was “Growing and Caring for Orchids.” Since the mid-1800s, more than 100,000 orchid cultivars have been developed and orchids can be found to suit almost any growing condition. Successful orchid culture is the result of imitating an orchid’s natural habitat as closely as possible. Brian covered all that’s needed to grow orchids successfully such as light, temperature, humidity, potting medium, and maintenance.

The May meeting will feature Amelia Legare of the O Zone and Flower Power Native Plant Nursery in Red Hook. The store specializes in supplying sustainable bulk-refill items, and the garden center grows and sells indigenous plants native to our region. Amelia will present “Sustainability in the Home and Garden.” She will talk about the O Zone Sustainability Center and Flower Power Native Nursery, and how learning together as a community can bring out the best practices for ourselves and our planet. Her goal is to reduce as much plastic waste within the gardening industry as possible and provide the best possible plant species for enhancing biodiversity and providing habitat for our many at-risk pollinators.

May 17 is the date for our very popular annual plant/tag/bake sale at Palatine Park, Germantown, from 8 am–1 pm. There will be locally grown nursery plants available for purchase. Plant selections include annual flowers, perennials, vegetables, and herbs. Garden club members will provide houseplants and seedlings.



Top Left: Tim Kennelty’s talk was about creating native gardens instead of lawns. He gave us tips on creating new garden beds without having to dig

Bottom Left: Orchids was the focus of our April meeting. Each person attending was given one by the speaker.

Above: Brian Bender-Tymon spoke to us about growing and caring for orchids.

SAUGERTIES SOCIETY OF LITTLE GARDENS

ULSTER COUNTY

by Dale Winchester

Saugerties Society of Little Gardens began our program year in February with our first membership meeting. Our club is excited to welcome a number of new members this year. As part of our routine programming we scheduled two presentations for our March and April meetings. The presentation in March was provided by the knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff of White Feather Farm in Saugerties. An overview of the farms numerous projects focused on their mission of promoting sustainable agriculture. We heard from their executive director, Marcos Stefna, the farm manager Celia F Brubaker, the biochar director, Bill Hilgendorf and about their

herbarium from Kris Garnier. Our April meeting presenter, Jack Paparo, provided us with a demonstration of preparing cut fresh and dried flowers for display. The club will hold our annual Plant and Bake Sale on Saturday May 17 at the Grand Union shopping Plaza in Saugerties. The sale is from 8:30 to noonish. The club will resume our routine seasonal plantings in the pole flower boxes in the village of Saugerties on May 21. We plan to have our club picnic at the White Feather Farm on June 11.

SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Anne Bielawski

We made button flowers at our April meeting. Small vases and colorful buttons!

Our May meeting, we will be making wreaths. At the end of May, we will have a booth at the Schoharie Antique show, selling plants and garden related items. We will be making beautiful beaded garden stakes for our June meeting and also participate in a quilt/flower show at the Schoharie Library.

All fun things!



Samples of our button flower arrangements.

NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Margaret McDowell

We welcomed spring this Year with our Annual Pot Luck Dinner – we shared some delicious food and discussed our winter activities. Everyone is anxious to start planting and gardening. New Paltz Community Gardens are waking up (slowly) and do show signs of daffodils and other Spring bulbs. We participated in Earth Day on April 26, by manning a garden club table with gardening information and free seeds. Our April 28 meeting featured a long-term garden club member, Shelly Ottens, who did a presentation on plant propagation. The meeting was open to the public to assist with membership recruitment. Our Annual Spring Plant Sale is scheduled for May 17 and we're looking forward to a successful event. All members assist that day and bring plants to sell, primarily perennials and houseplants. The monies go toward an annual scholarship to a local High School student chosen by their

teachers. We hope to attend Award Night this year and present the scholarship to the student chosen.

May and June we will be visiting local gardens including a member's garden.

Our fall programs last year included trips to Mohonk for a beautiful garden display dedicated to "Artists' Color Palette" among them—Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet and Hieronymus Bosch. In October we visited The Hortus Arboretum and Botanical Gardens—it showcases native, unusual and historic plants.

In November and December, we celebrated the holidays and continued our tradition of making live holiday decorations for the local nursing home residents.



Members visiting Mohonk and the Hortus Arboretum.

COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB OF MARLBOROUGH-ON-HUDSON

ULSTER COUNTY

by Linda Fogarty

The Community Garden Club of Marlborough on Hudson started off the spring meeting with a craft project. Led by member, Liz Roche, we all got to design and paint flat rocks to be used in planters or to identify species in our gardens.

Our April meeting was led by our local town recreation director and horticulturist, Jim Presutti. Jim instructed us in the correct ways to prune our bushes. It's been a rough winter for some of our shrubs!

In May we will again create small flower arrangements for our local meals on wheels recipients.

June is our membership luncheon. In July we will be hosting a plant sale at the Newburgh Historical Society's open house.

We are looking forward to a busy Spring and Summer.



Examples of our craft project, painting flat rocks to be used in planter or to identify species in the garden..

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack, Dutchess County Chiarmen

The Tioronda Garden Club is celebrating its 96th Anniversary this year. We have several activities planned, including our Secret Gardens of Beacon Tour which will take place on Saturday, May 31, starting at noon. The Tour serves as a fund raiser, but more importantly, provides publicity for the club and inspires residents to showcase their gardens while generating new club members.

We continue to focus on our many civic beautification projects at prominent locations throughout the city. A field trip is planned for late June to Blithewood Gardens at Bard College overlooking the Hudson River.

Top Left: Tioronda Garden Club welcomes travelers with an array of Daffodils as they enter and leave the city in Springtime.

Secret Gardens of Beacon 2024 Fund raising Tour Photos:

Top Right: Member James Bell transforms his garden into a tropical paradise right here in the Hudson Valley—a perennial favorite on the Garden Tour circuit.

Bottom Left: “Everything’s Coming up Roses” Ethel Merman would be proud.

Bottom Right: Member Michael Soltish gives visitors and members a tour of his manicured poolside gardens.



SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Sophia Browne

With total anticipation we started our March meeting. Our subject is “exploring climate change” and how it affects us! We received our 2025 Year Books thanks to Haze Gale and Roberta Rosenthal.

April has been a busy month. Avalon Bunge was our speaker for the April meeting. She spoke about ecological restoration in the Hudson area. We received small trees to plant at home—a gift from Haze Gal and Roberta Rosenthal. We took our trip to the Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Montgomery (arboretum). Due to our erratic recent weather, a lot of the plants were behind schedule. We celebrated Arbor Day by planting a crab apple tree in honor of Pidge Collier who passed away. We miss her.

Our May meeting will involve our plans and discussions for our village planters as well as Liberty square, the village golf course, the ERH plants and other village necessities now that Spring has arrived. We also have our “adopt a highway” volunteers and schedules. On May 10, we have our Mothers’ Day plant sale at the Hunt Building which is our fund raiser. Our members are always ready to assist our buyers who arrive early in the morning for our best plants.

June is our plant exchange and pizza party at Lippman Park. Members bring their own plants to exchange with each other and depart with a smile. Food Waste and composting is the subject of the day. Scholarship awards are also presented this month. Our annual luncheon will be June 19 at the Soyuzivka Ukrainian Heritage Center.

Our July meeting takes place at the home of master gardener and club member, Suze Trager. “Forest Bathing” is an opportunity to appreciate what mother nature has to offer all around us and be aware of the little things. Besides the nature experience, there is the “NORA” experience, off road adventures, and a program for the mobility impaired.

August’s meeting deals with house plants which can clean your indoor air of toxins and keep the house cooler. On August 9, Ellenville’s Blueberry Festival occurs. We participate every year.

September’s subject focuses learning about wild forest foods and being able to identify them. Using them as herbs for medicines, food, etc. September is the month we create our scarecrows for display in Ellenville until the end of October.

October is a busy and fun month. We have a SOUP COOK-OFF!

Homemade soup from nature’s bounty. Of course, we provide prizes for our winning participants. We also visit our favorite arboretum to see the fall splendor. We create centerpieces for ERH gala every year. We attend the Fall District luncheon in Kingston.

November’s meeting provides the members with annual reports provided by committee chairmen. On November 27 we will decorate the Historical Museum for the holidays. Fun time.

December’s Christmas Meeting Party “Hot Flashes” will take place at Haze Gal’s House in Cragmoor. Always a wonderful and mystical treat to celebrate the end of the year with Haze. There will be an ugly Xmas Sweater contest with a prize.

Besides our monthly activities, we contribute monthly to local food pantries, participate in Adopt a Highway, and contribute to the Dig Deep Navajo Indian Water Project monthly.



From Top to Bottom: Arbor Day planting a crab apple tree in honor of Pidge Collier who passed away. The tree was planted in front of the Trudy Resnick Farmer Center.

Our trip to the Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Montgomery. Lunch break enjoyed by Sue Harris, Jun Carlsen, Niki Fade, Pat Macgregor and Lillian Green.

Our photograph at the District Spring Luncheon at Leeds, NY in April. Lillian Green, Sue Harris, Gary Barrack, Robin Andersen, Leslie Rogge, Jun Carlsen, Abbie Beveraggi and Haze Gal.

Clubs' Calendar 2025

June 1–4

FGCNYS Annual Convention

Desmond Hotel, Crowne Plaza Albany
660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY

August 23–24

Germantown Garden Club Flower Show

Kellner Activity Building
Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY

October 16

District III Fall Meeting

Pegasus Restaurant
10885 State Road 9W, Coxsackie, NY

October 20–22

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs' Fall Conference

Hyatt Regency
100 Heron Boulevard, Cambridge, MD

December 5–6

Germantown Garden Club Christmas Market

Kellner Activity Building
Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY

Spring Gardening Social

The Clematis Garden Club, Greenville, presents its annual Spring Gardening Social at 1 pm on **Friday, May 16** at The American Legion Post 291, 58 Maple Ave., Greenville.

Popular TV/Radio Gardening personality Peter Bowden will be our speaker. Peter is knowledgeable, interesting, and very humorous. Raffles, auctions, door prizes, 50/50 drawing, plus delicious refreshments make this an enjoyable afternoon and the public is welcomed to attend this garden themed free and fun event. For info Jean Horn 518-966-4260.



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.

